March 31, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Kline & Miller,

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Education Task Force (CCD) is a coalition of more than 100 organizations that advance the rights of our nation’s six million children and youth with disabilities eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). We are writing to express support for the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act. Thank you for introducing this important legislation.

This bill addresses our long-standing concerns about the under-enrollment of students with disabilities in charter schools by requiring charter school authorizers to monitor how charter schools not only recruit and enroll students with disabilities but also how the schools plan to retain these students once enrolled. The bill also includes new requirements that will help charter schools intentionally plan for and consider how they will meet the needs of students with disabilities and how to help them thrive.

We know that the challenges facing students with disabilities issues are many, but these students possess a wealth of potential to succeed and meet high standards. We applaud this bipartisan effort and thank you for your work to ensure that students with disabilities are appropriately served in charter schools.

Sincerely,

ACCSES
Autism National Committee
Brain Injury Association of America
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Parent Teacher Association
The Advocacy Institute
The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider, and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society. For additional information, please contact:

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