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April 14, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
LHHS Appropriation Subcommittee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations for the Charter School Program

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is writing to request an increase for the Public Charter Schools Program (CSP) in the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill; from \$333,200,000 in Fiscal Year 2016 to \$350,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2017. We join the charter school community in expressing our great appreciation for the significant increase in Fiscal Year 2016. The increase to the State charter school program especially means more states, and more local communities, can benefit from high quality charter schools and strong charter school authorizing. The modest increase requested this year is consistent with the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request.

Within the charter school program we request a distribution of funds that mirrors that envisioned by the Every Student Succeeds Act. This includes:

- 65% of funds, or \$227,500,000, for the State grant program
- No more than 18% of funds, or \$63,000,000, for the CSP Grants for the Replication and Expansion of High Quality Schools; and
- No less than 2.5% of funds, or \$8,600,000, for the dissemination of best-practices and the provision of technical assistance.

Grants made using Fiscal Year 2017 funds will be the first grants under the reinvigorated Expanding Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools program authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act. This new CSP represents the best efforts of policy makers to support the expansion of diverse, high-quality state charter sectors across the country while recognizing and nurturing proven charter school replicators. The distribution requested ensures that as many states as possible across the country receive these vital funds that not only grow great schools, but support system-wide policy and practice changes that are proven to improve charter school performance. For the first time, this includes dedicated, state-level funds to improve authorizing.

We respectfully request that Congress continue growing the Charter School Program, and do so using the funding distribution envisioned by the Every Student Succeeds Act. This will ensure the Department of Education has the clear directive to follow Congressional intent and see that this revitalized grant program benefits as many states—and as many communities—as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Richmond
President & CEO
National Association of Charter School Authorizers