

March 22, 2010

Dear ,

As a Florida resident, I am well aware of the pressure on you to balance a budget during fiscally difficult times. Our educational system has taken significant cuts in the last two years. We urge you not to cripple our schools with further cuts. The impact of those cuts will not only impact the current level of education but the future of Florida's educated work force.

I am a voter in your district, and a parent of a student enrolled at one of your Blue Ribbon and A plus charter schools. Charter schools have proven to be an incredible success story in our Nation's evolution towards more effective education for our children, our future leaders. Charter schools should be nurtured, protected and supported. Each year, Terrace Community Middle School parents volunteer our time and resources to help support this incredible school. As a community, we care about our children and about the quality education they deserve. This year we have dedicated our time to educate each parent about the challenges facing our school with a "Stop the Drain Campaign". I, along with fellow parents, am asking for your help and will be watching closely the decisions made that affect the success of education in Florida, and charter schools in particular.

Key Issues:

Protect the current per student spending levels and restore lost funding. Charter schools already receive substantially less funding per child than other public schools.

Keep class size reduction on a realistic schedule until we can give schools the needed financial resources. An unfunded mandate of smaller classes doesn't do our students or schools any good.

Help the "A" and "B" charter schools with a simpler and quicker process for extending their own charters, obtaining new charters, and accessing funding to recreate their successful models in new schools.

Give charter schools access to the school district's \$2 million for capital funding or provide comparable capital funding.

I look forward to your help in supporting legislation issues and funding that will protect quality educational choices for Florida's parents and students.

Sincerely,