From: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
To: Pat Scrivner;
Subject: Charter Schools NewsBlast | May 12, 2009
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 3:23:18 PM

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President Obama Proposes 25% Increase for Charter Schools in 2010 Budget

On May 7, President Barack Obama proposed a 25% increase in federal funding for public charter schools in 2010. The $52 million increase was commended by National Alliance for Public Charter Schools President and CEO Nelson Smith as a "strong first step toward fulfilling [the] campaign promise to double federal funding for public charter schools. We appreciate the strong statement the President is making here with a large increase in charter school funding at a time when resources are tight. We understand that President Obama expects great things from high-quality charter schools - and we look forward to surpassing those expectations." Read the full details here about what the President proposes for charter schools.

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Charter School Supporters Celebrate National Charter Schools Week Around the Nation

Public charter school supporters around the country celebrated National Charter Schools Week May 3-9 under this year's theme "Promoting Innovation & Excellence." Among the highlights: in Michigan, Governor Granholm held a tribute to charters celebrating 15 or more years of service; in Nevada, Governor Gibbons held a luncheon with school administrators; In Oregon and Texas, rallies for charter schools were held on the steps of both capitols. In the nation's capital, more than 40 charter school leaders held over 100 meetings with their representatives in Congress to let them know that charters are making a difference in their states. Read the full story about NCSW 2009 here.

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Three-Quarters of Voters Support Obama's Call to Lift Charter School Caps

Three out of four voters (74%) support President Barack Obama's call on states to lift the limits restricting the growth of public charter schools, says a national poll recently conducted for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. The poll also reveals broad support for the President's overall plan to reform education (81%). Individual elements of that plan also received high marks, such as rewarding good teachers with more money for improved student performance (87%), funding programs to replicate successful charter schools (82%) and creating "Promise Neighborhoods" that use charter schools as the centerpiece of integrated services ensuring safe and healthy student development (83%). Get all the details on what the poll reveals here.

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Union Leader: "Stop Charters by Organizing Them"

Detroit teachers union Keith Jackson was blunt last week about his effort to stop charters in the Motor City: "The DFT [Detroit Federation of Teachers] does not support charter schools and/or the expansion of charter schools! However we can no longer afford to keep our heads buried in the sand hoping to look up one day and find that they have all gone away." So, he's come up with a plan to make charter schools go away: "After 14 years of existence, it is obvious that charters are not going away, and they have had enough free rein to operate as they please. It is time for them to be regulated and DFT is going to lead the way." In the words of the real Keith Jackson: "This has to go down as an all-time all-timer." Read what Nolan Finley of the Detroit News has to say about the union's strategy here.

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Take Action: Tell Congress to Support Increased Funding for Charter Schools

Make your voice heard. President Obama has proposed a $52 million increase for public charter schools and now Congress must vote on it. Let your member of Congress know you support the President's proposal. Send a message here to your representative in Congress.

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More Employment Opportunities On-Line

Looking for a job in the world of charter schools? A large number of new positions around the nation have been posted in the last week on the Public Charter Schools Job Board, including several in Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and New York. Over 180 new positions have been posted in just the past 8 weeks, and you can check them all out here. As always, all listings are a free service of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. (You can even post your resume for free!).

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1101 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 1010. Washington, DC 20005. (202) 289-2700
www.publiccharters.org

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