

September 10, 2025

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman, House Oversight
and Government Reform Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Please Support Reauthorization of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program

Dear Chairman Comer and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to you today to urge you to please support and pass the reauthorization of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

All children learn differently, and all children, regardless of income or zip code, deserve the opportunity to receive the education that works best for them. Since its creation in 2004, the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) has provided scholarships to over 12,000 students in D.C. to attend private schools, otherwise out of reach to low-income families due to cost. The OSP has been lifechanging for families like ours, with the program serving D.C. students who are in serious need, as the average family income of participating families is less than \$28,000 per year.

For families in the program, like ours, the OSP has provided pathways for gifted students to receive an education that meets their unique learning needs, for students in unsafe situations to escape violence, and for families to receive an education that best aligns with their values and beliefs—an opportunity available to affluent D.C. families but out of reach to the most vulnerable D.C. residents without this scholarship program.

When we invest in educational opportunities, we are investing in the future of D.C. and its residents. The OSP has been incredibly influential over the last 20 years, and students who have received the scholarship have gone on to college, trade schools, and the military after graduation, with alumni of the program now working as teachers, doctors, scientists, and leaders in their communities.

Unfortunately, demand for the OSP program is incredibly high, with more than 3,000 scholarship applications filled out every year—more applications than there are available scholarships spots. Due to the high demand, many families in dire need are turned away, trapping students in schools that do not meet their needs and may not be safe for students to attend. More funding for the program is desperately needed to meet the demand of D.C.'s most vulnerable students, who are simply looking for a better education and more opportunities for a vibrant and successful future after graduation. The reauthorization bill will help to expand opportunities for D.C. students while continuing to fund families who are already participating in the program.

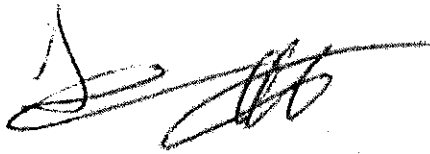
Education has the power to change lives, and no child should be trapped in a school that does not meet their learning needs, simply because their family cannot afford an alternative option. By

passing the reauthorization bill, you will be continuing to empower D.C. families like ours to provide our children with the best education possible and, in doing so, taking an important step to set up the next generation for a lifetime of success.

Please invest in the education and future of our D.C. students by passing the reauthorization bill and continuing to support the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Thank you,

Tiwauna Allen on behalf of D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Families

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tiwauna Allen', written over a horizontal line.