January 31, 2025

Senator Bill Cassidy
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor and Pensions
828 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

On behalf of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, I am writing to express our support for the approval of Linda McMahon to serve as the United States Secretary of Education.

We lead a diverse coalition of organizations, schools, teachers, and families in advocating at the federal and state levels for policies that treat public charter schools, their teachers and staff, and families fairly and protect the right of families to choose the public schools that best meet their children's needs. Mrs. McMahon shares these priorities and has supported the public charter school community for decades. We are confident that under her leadership, the Department of Education will focus on improving outcomes for schoolchildren and increase public school options for families across America.

As the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA), Mrs. McMahon championed bipartisan priorities including revitalizing rural communities, leading effective disaster relief, and raising awareness of SBA services and capital available to small business owners. Given Mrs. McMahon's track record working across the aisle, we believe that she will serve as an effective advocate for all students, no matter their background, race, or zip code.

Over the last 20 years, public charter school enrollment has grown by millions to 3.8 million students today. Those students attend 8,150 charter schools and campuses in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Mrs. McMahon has said “The nation’s greatest asset is the American worker.” American schools are responsible for educating the children who will turn into those workers. Strengthening American education will have a positive impact on our economy. Data increasingly demonstrates that when charter schools open, students in traditional school districts also thrive.

Two 2024 research studies, one from the Fordham Institute and one from the Progressive Policy Institute, showed that students in both charter and traditional public schools do better in both rural and urban communities where charter schools exist. Stanford’s Center for Research on Education has shown that public charter school students gain an average of 16 additional days of learning in reading and six extra days of learning in math each school year compared to their school district peers.

We are confident that Mrs. McMahon will foster an environment at the Department that encourages states to find creative solutions to our nation’s most pressing educational issues, including by empowering parents to choose the public school that best meets their children’s needs.

We look forward to working with Mrs. McMahon to strengthen public education and we encourage the Committee to support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Starlee Coleman
President and CEO