



Children's Defense Fund

March 11, 2003

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Fattah:

The Children's Defense Fund is pleased to endorse the Student Bill of Rights. If we are going to close the achievement gap and ensure that all students achieve at the highest levels, we must ensure that all students have access to high quality resources such as fully qualified teachers, advanced curricula, small class size and up-to-date text books and technology. The Student Bill of Rights takes strong steps toward achieving this goal.

Accountability must be a two way street. It does not make sense simply to test students and demand better performance. Our leaders at all levels of government must also be held accountable for giving all children the opportunity to perform well in school. This means providing high quality resources to the schools that need them most. Your legislation would ensure that states take responsibility for creating a more level playing field between schools and between districts, regardless of income. This is absolutely essential to closing the achievement gap.

Thank you for your leadership in promoting educational equity and excellence for all children.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Wright Edelman

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