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## FAX ALERT

### AROUND THE REFORM WORLD IN 30 DAYS

**May 24, 1999** The last 30 days have been filled with exciting education reform action. The Center for Education Reform (CER) is pleased to provide you with this unique in-depth glance at education policy in the making, from some key states where some of the Center's 25,000 members and friends are most involved.

- In **Oregon**, months of planning and concerted effort are paying off for folks committed to education reform – Governor John Kitzhaber is days away from signing charter school legislation and a companion alternative teacher licensing bill. Representative Ron Sunseri, the Center for Educational Change, and the Cascade Policy Institute led the successful reform effort. Charter schools will be essentially unlimited and up to 50% of the teachers may be uncertified prior to teaching at the charter school. Congratulations, Oregon!
- **Minnesota** is one step closer to making its charter school law the strongest in the nation. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation that will improve Minnesota's already good charter school law. The new law adds \$3 million in start-up funds and \$6 million in funds to help with leases and other building expenses. It also allows cooperatives to sponsor charter schools for the first time. This only increases the number of educational choices for Minnesota's parents and students.
- The **New Hampshire** House passed a school choice bill by a narrow margin of 172-171. Under this plan, parents and students that attend schools that fall into the lower third of the state academically would be allowed to choose a different school if they make 300% of the poverty level or less. Stay tuned to hear about this bill's progress in the Senate.
- And keep your eye on **Oklahoma** this week. Mighty efforts are underway to get a strong charter school law for the students of Oklahoma in this last week of the legislative session. CER president Jeanne Allen was invited to address the legislature on May 21, 1999. Her efforts may well prove instrumental in bringing about a positive outcome for charter schools there. CER additionally rallied the national charter school community by writing opinion pieces for key newspapers across the state.

More news on these and other developments will be found in your forthcoming *Monthly Letter to friends*, or weekly via CER's Hotline at 887-433-8228.

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*The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For additional information on school choice, contact CER at (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com).*

