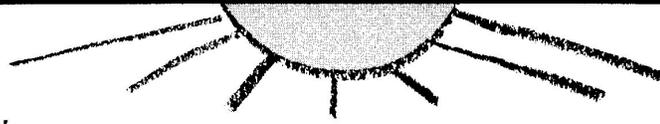


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PRESS ADVISORY

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CONGRESSIONAL CO-CHAIRS FOR SALUTE TO CHARTER SCHOOLS ANNOUNCED *Delegation to lead National Observance*

(Washington, D.C. 4/18/03) The Center for Education Reform (CER) announced today that eight Congressional leaders have agreed to serve as honorary-co-chairs of the *Congressional Salute to Charter Schools* in conjunction with the fourth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be celebrated this year April 28-May 2, 2003.

Senators Judd Gregg (NH); Tom Carper (DE); Joseph Lieberman (CT); Lamar Alexander (TN) and Congressmen John Boehner (OH); Johnny Isakson (GA); Jeff Flake (AZ) and Michael Castle (DE) will participate in various events designed to showcase the importance of charter schools in improving all schools.

CER is one of the national groups to lead the efforts to celebrate charter schools, supported by thousands of charter schools and charter activists across the country. A number of other events across the nation will highlight the contribution charter schools have made in communities since the first charter opened in 1992. For example, CER has organized: "A Lesson on Capitol Hill," an event with middle and high school students from several District of Columbia charter schools attending a class led by the co-chairs. According to CER's latest numbers, there are nearly 2,700 charter schools operating in 36 states and the District of Columbia, serving nearly 685,000 students.

For the latest on events, go to: <http://www.edreform.com/ncswonderswebsite>.

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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 further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>.