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## **PRESS ADVISORY**

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### **NEW INTERNET INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER WILL CONNECT MORE PEOPLE WITH POLICYMAKERS ON EDUCATION REFORM**

**(Washington, D.C. 04/01/03)** To facilitate more grassroots-level communication with policymakers at the local, state and national levels, the Center for Education Reform today announced a new internet-based initiative to give people more direct access to their elected officials on matters related to education reform initiatives proposed at any given time. Called the Grassroots Action Center, CER is making this service available free of charge to all visitors to <http://www.edreform.com/> the Center's award-winning website.

"Policymakers have often complained to us that they do not hear from their constituencies when it comes to education reform issues," said CER president Jeanne Allen. "When the well-staffed lobbyists dominate the discussions and dwarf the opinions of real people, it's time to step in and offer assistance to the people that need it the most," Allen added.

As a new educational tool that provides a venue for expressing opinions on various issues relating to issues such as charter schools, or standards or even teacher quality, the Grassroots Action Center will connect activists to both sample letters on specific issues or the ability to create their own message. With the click of a mouse, the Grassroots Action Center will automatically deliver an individuals' letter via e-mail to lawmakers of their choosing.

Interested parties are directed to review or use the new service at <http://www.edreform.com>.

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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>.*