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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
JUNE 12, 1997

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**PENNSYLVANIA CHARTER LEGISLATION GETS GREEN LIGHT!**  
CER PRESIDENT JEANNE ALLEN LAUDS LEGISLATION AS "SUCCESSFUL START"

Pennsylvania's new charter school law is a welcome and necessary addition to the national movement for strengthening public education. Governor Tom Ridge and the state legislature have performed a great service for the good of Pennsylvania's children in advancing this issue.

The bill provides parents, teachers and civic-minded citizens with the ability to create new and diverse learning opportunities for children, and that's what this is all about. When compared with the 26 other charter laws presently in existence, this new legislation falls in the middle of those states with very strong laws and those allowing for charter schools in name only.

The strength level of any charter law relies in part upon the ability of groups seeking charters to surpass local districts and create schools without the permission of the very entity from which they are seeking independence.

While a good start, we look forward to the day when Pennsylvania lawmakers will come together to build on this successful start, and create a more accessible and encouraging process for people to open the doors of new public charter schools.

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6-16-97 TD AHD

06-11-97 PA charter legislation