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## **PRESS ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **MAJOR CHARTER SCHOOL RULINGS ISSUED IN TWO STATES**

**(Washington, DC 5/11/2000)** Today there was both good news and bad news for charter schools from two different states. First the good news in New Jersey, the Council on Local Mandates (CLM) upheld the legality of regional charter schools in New Jersey setting back the attempt by some school boards to get rid of charter schools entirely. The CLM is the state's last resort on such issues, as the Supreme Court has already ruled that charter schools are constitutional in New Jersey.

Unfortunately, in South Carolina the bad news is the state Supreme Court ruled that the state's law is unconstitutional because of a provision in the law that requires charter schools to mirror the district's racial balance. Rather than just finding that provision unacceptable the court threw out the whole law. This means the state will likely have to pass new legislation authorizing charter schools.

This is the first time a state Supreme Court has taken issue with a charter school law not on the basis of the educational value of charters but only on the more tenuous issue of race. South Carolina's legislature will have to consider this issue during its current session.

More details will be forthcoming from the Center. Please feel free to call us or check our website at [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com)

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