



1320 N. Courthouse Rd., Suite 220,  
Arlington, VA 22201

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**Daniel Garza**  
Executive Director, The LIBRE Initiative

**Andrew Clark**  
President, Generation Opportunity

**April 29, 2016**

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of our organizations' supporters representing both Latinos and young people across the country, we write you in strong support of the Scholarship for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act of 2016. The Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) has been a tremendous success in expanding choice and improving the lives of students and families in the District of Columbia. Leaders on all sides of the political spectrum support this bill, including the mayor of D.C. and a majority of the city council.

Since 2004, the OSP has improved the quality of education for thousands of low-income children in Washington, D.C. The program provides federally funded scholarships to low-income children for tuition and other fees at participating private schools. About 91 percent of OSP participants graduate: a rate more than 30 percent higher than their peers in public school. Participants also improved their reading scores on standardized tests, and surveys showed parents are satisfied with the program. These scholarships are a lifeline to parents and children who would otherwise be trapped in failing schools.

The OSP could save money while improving student outcomes. While spending nearly \$30,000 per pupil in recent years, the District's government-run schools are consistently ranked among the worst in the nation. An Opportunity Scholarship would cost the taxpayers less than \$9,000 on average to send a student to a privately run school. Scholarship recipients

were found 21 percentage points more likely to graduate high school than those who didn't receive scholarships in a research study. Further, opportunity scholarships provide Hispanic and younger parents, who are disproportionately disadvantaged by underperforming schools, with the opportunity to choose the best school for their children.

The LIBRE Initiative and Generation Opportunity greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue. More school choice benefits our country's students, families, and hardworking educators. We agree that educational choice only improves our ability to succeed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Garza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel Garza, Executive Director, The LIBRE Initiative

Andrew Clark, President, Generation Opportunity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Clark". The signature is cursive and stylized, with a prominent loop at the end.