

September 7, 2006

The Honorable Senator Florence Shapiro

Charge #6 To Evaluate the Impact of Successful School Choice Programs on Parents, Students, and Teachers

As a retired Texas ISD teacher now working in the charter school environment, I feel that I can speak with some authority about the critical gap that charter schools can fill in educating Texas students. During my years as an ISD teacher, I shared with my colleagues the frustration of knowing that a significant percentage of our students are not succeeding in the traditional environment. Those are the very students who are succeeding at Winfree Academy, where I now am employed. Struggling and "out-of-place" students need facilities where they can have opportunities to acquire the education that will make them productive members of our society. Public money spent on those facilities will be a great investment not only because it will help to produce contributing members to our state economy but also because it will reduce future expenditures for correctional and social services.

After "retirement," I made the decision to teach in a charter school so that I could help the population I had so much difficulty reaching in the traditional setting. I urge you to help me help those students by supporting facilities funding for ALL Texas charter schools.

Thank you,

Charles W. Naney
Winfree Academy Charter Schools
Irving, Texas