



Public involvement. Public education. Public benefit.

April 25, 2005

House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
H-306 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer:

Public Education Network (PEN) wishes to extend its support and enthusiasm for H.R. 4585, the "Full-Service Community Schools Act." We recognize this legislation as a critical step in the effort to make connections between schools and the communities they serve, and to see schools as centers of community life. At PEN we believe that strong civic and community participation in public education strengthens communities and increases the quality of education available to our children. The "Full-Service Community Schools Act" represents an important contribution to America's schools, children, families, and society. Community schools go a long way to meeting the needs of children and families in many districts across the country. It is particularly those children who lack even basic nutritional and health services that face the greatest educational obstacles. This bill sends a clear message that the range of needs a young person may evidence does not fall on deaf ears in our federal government, nor does the idea that schools can serve as a vital anchoring institution in a community.

The "Full-Service Community Schools Act" represents a critical contribution to the future of American public education and reflects a true understanding of how to build stronger schools and communities. We appreciate your leadership and commitment, and that of your colleagues in striving to ensure a quality public education for America's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy D. Puriefoy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy D. Puriefoy
President