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## **PRESS ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO HEAD NATIONWIDE SALUTE TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**(Washington, D.C. (2/14/02)** The Center for Education Reform (CER) announced today that seven Congressional leaders have, to date, agreed to serve as honorary co-chairs of the *Congressional Salute to Charter Schools* in conjunction with the third annual National Charter Schools Week. This nationwide celebration of charter schools will be observed April 29-May 3, 2002.

Those confirmed members are: Senators Judd Gregg (NH), Joseph Lieberman (CT) Tim Hutchinson (AR) and Tom Carper (DE) and Representatives John Boehner (OH), Tim Roemer (IN) and Johnny Isakson (GA).

The Congressional Salute to Charter Schools, organized by CER will feature visits to charter schools by Members and their representatives and a special Capitol Hill briefing on the growth and challenges of charter schools. These events will highlight a decade of choices now available to families since the nation's first charter school in Minnesota opened its doors in 1992. Charter schools have grown from that one school in 1992 to nearly 2,400 today serving almost 580,000 children in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

Additional activities and Congressional sponsors of the Salute will be released at a later date.

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*The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>.*