

REPRESENTATIVE

Charlotte Vining Douglas
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DISTRICT 75

Counties:

Part Crawford
Part Sebastian

COMMITTEES:

Education
Chairperson,
Kindergarten through Twelve,
Vocational/Technical Institutions
Subcommittee

State Agencies and Governmental
Affairs
Elections Subcommittee

Joint Committee on Energy

Joint Budget

July 23, 2015

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-A
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Commissioner Key:

In the 2015 Arkansas General Assembly, I was proud to sponsor House Concurrent Resolution 1008, which designated the month of September as Take Your Legislator to School Month, “to foster productive working relationships between members of the General Assembly and public school officials.” This bipartisan initiative was motivated by a need for members of the General Assembly to fully understand the issues and challenges facing public schools in their districts, as well as the innovative solutions our educators are developing.

As a retired classroom teacher, I know that the best way to understand the vital role our public schools play is to interact directly with administrators, teachers, and students. HCR1008 encourages public school districts to plan special events with their local legislators that increase awareness of school achievements and challenges, as well as generate productive communication between school officials and legislators. September events could include offering legislators guided tours of district campuses; allowing legislators to visit classrooms, read to students, or present guest lectures; or school-sponsored panel discussions in which administrators, teachers, and students discuss issues facing their schools.

I ask you to share this letter with your members/constituents and staff. As September approaches, school districts will receive contact information for their local legislators, along with press materials. I hope that by participating in these activities, legislators will become more aware not only of the challenges in public schools, but also the solutions and

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2

innovations making Arkansas competitive nationwide.

I look forward to working and visiting with you all in September—our first annual Take Your Legislator to School Month!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Douglas".

Charlotte Vining Douglas

State Representative

District 75

CVD;plr