



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Adam H. Putnam
U.S. House of Representatives
1725 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0912

Dear Congressman Putnam:

I want to thank you and Senator Martinez for your leadership in introducing H.R. 1829, the Student Protection Act. This well-crafted piece of legislation is an important step towards protecting Florida's children and children across our great nation from predators and in ensuring a safe and secure learning environment in our schools.

I recognize the importance for having openness and transparency within our education system. As you may recall, Florida recently launched a Web site that enables the general public to check if disciplinary action has been taken against a Florida educator's certificate. Using an online database, visitors to the site are able to obtain information on teacher misconduct cases brought to the state level. The site, www.MyFloridaTeacher.com, empowers parents by providing them with simple, easy-to-use access to information about an educator's disciplinary history.

I know we can work together to promote a culture of learning that allows our students to earn a year's worth of knowledge in a year's worth of time while also ensuring their safety in the classroom. The Student Protection Act is a critical safeguard for our students, parents and educators. I commend you for your continued commitment to the People of Florida and look forward to congressional action on this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

cc: Commissioner Eric Smith