



**Testimony of Darren Woodruff,
Board Chair
DC Public Charter School Board**

**DC Council Committee on Education
Confirmation Roundtable
Thursday June 9, 2016**

Thank you Chairman Grosso and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Darren Woodruff and I am the Chair of the DC Public Charter School Board.

It is my pleasure to be here today in support of Mayor Bowser's nominee for another term on the Board, our Vice Chair and my fellow board colleague, Don Soifer.

For the past several years, Don has been an integral participant in the success and improvement of this city's charter sector. Whether we've had to decide to approve a new school, close a low-performing school or renew an existing school's charter, Don has been fully engaged and always asks thought provoking questions. I am constantly amazed by Don's steadfast commitment to the Board, public charter schools and to the public school students in the District of Columbia. His dedication is manifested through his perfect Board meeting attendance record, active participation in the Board's thinking around effective oversight, as well as his frequent visits to schools to get a better view of the impact of our work. Don is passionate about the

Board's mission of ensuring that students have access to a quality public charter school education.

Over the course of his impressive career, Don has served as a co-founder and Executive Vice President of a nonpartisan think tank, the Lexington Institute, where he directs the Institute's research programs. Through this work, Don brings to the Board a unique perspective, thanks in large part to his nationally recognized education policy research, which is frequently mentioned in many influential publications, and has been cited in a U.S. Supreme Court opinion.

Don's passion, expertise and thoughtfulness make him a model Board member. I would be proud to serve another term with him as he helps the Board fulfill its mission of ensuring that DC's families have access to a quality education. Thank you, Chairman Grosso, and to the Committee for scheduling this hearing today and for your continued support of public charter schools.