

House of Representatives

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REPRESENTATIVE

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DISTRICT 49

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Joint Budget 1st Alternate, Legislative Joint Auditing Committee August 28, 2024

Arkansas Charter Authorizing Panel Attn: Ms. Dorie Summons, Director of Charter Schools Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Accountability Four Capitol Mall, Box 19 Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Summons:

I am writing to support the establishment of Real World Preparatory, an innovative charter school set to open in August 2025 in Northwest Arkansas. Real World Preparatory's mission to cater to students who have struggled within traditional academic settings is inspiring and vital for our community.

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, it is crucial to have schools that provide alternative approaches to learning. Real World Preparatory's commitment to personalized instruction and real-world skill development addresses a significant need. The school's focus on creating an engaging and supportive environment will empower students who may not have thrived in conventional classrooms, offering them a fresh start and a path to success.

The emphasis on hands-on learning, career readiness, and practical skills is precisely what is needed to prepare students for the complexities of the modern world. By equipping students with these essential tools, Real World Preparatory will enhance their academic achievements and better prepare them for meaningful careers and life beyond school.

I have enjoyed the pleasure of working closely with both founding directors in an educational setting and am thoroughly impressed with their commitment and expertise. Given their track record and visionary approach, I am confident that Real World Preparatory will emerge as a cornerstone of

educational excellence in our region. This institution promises to foster significant academic and personal growth among its students. I wholeheartedly support the approval of this proposal and eagerly anticipate the positive impact it will bring to our community.

Thank you for considering this important initiative. If I may offer any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jay Richardson State Representative

District 49

JR/mjs