

## **Senator Tim Scott – Opportunity to SOAR - Testimony**

To Chairman Johnson and the rest of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today about this important program and about expanding educational options so that our young people can access the opportunities they deserve.

I also want to thank you and the rest of the Committee for choosing to hold this hearing here at a school, where we can see firsthand the impact that programs like the Opportunity Scholarship are having on students and parents. St. Thomas More Academy is exactly the kind of model we need to be holding up as we discuss these issues. Unfortunately, on Capitol Hill, these discussions sometimes take a turn away from the families--the parents and students--actually affected by these policies.

The reality is, if you have a high-paying job, you already have school choice—it's called a good income. With a high income, you can choose your neighborhood, or choose to send your child to a private school.

The problem is, many parents don't have that luxury. These parents want their kids to achieve as much as any other parent. But they lack the income to support the best options for their kids.

The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program ensures that your zip code doesn't determine your child's educational future. It provides families with options.

This mission—which is to educate kids in a high-quality school—is neither Republican nor Democratic. It's both. I thank Senator Feinstein, who joined us in introducing the SOAR Reauthorization Act last month—in an effort to continue helping high-potential kids to realize their dreams.

My hope is that we can move this bipartisan bill across the finish line, and to ensure that families can continue to benefit from the Opportunity Scholarship Program for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.