



ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

STM Congressional Hearing Opening Statement – Gerald Smith

Geoffery Canada once asked a simple question, What would it Take? In a society where a class of people in America are often forgotten and the game is fixed against them, what would it take to get them out of poverty? The answer is simple: education. But simply placing scholars within a classroom is not enough. Providing true and sound partnerships between the community, the parents, an institution's educators and most importantly the scholars in which school's serve is vital to the success of developing whole individuals willing and ready to make the world more just and humane. School Choice is an important component in allowing parents and their scholars to find places that fit the needs of their unique academic profile. More importantly, the chance to choose a school rooted in mission and its religious core provides the opportunity for developing young men and women who are dedicated to growing in virtue. Catholic Schools like St. Thomas More Catholic Academy and others within the Consortium of Catholic Academics as well as many private institutions gives rise to increasing chances of transforming every aspect of a young man or young woman's life. The support of the SOAR grant gives hope to a world where brilliant minds are only one component to making the world better. The SOAR grant gives the choice to parents to find schools ready to lead, teach, and inspire, through the gospel reflecting love daily. Programs supported by the SOAR grant transforms men and women with not only brilliant minds, but more importantly men and women with full sanctified hearts guided by virtue.