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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE

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GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

October 20, 2009

Dear GEAR UP Directors, Students, Teachers, Families, Partners and Staff:

I want to wholeheartedly thank you for your participation in GEAR UP Day last month. It is a great start to what will be, with your help, a new tradition. I have heard so many wonderful things from sites around the country who engaged their public officials, media and school partnerships in recognizing the work of GEAR UP.

I am pleased that all of your work for GEAR UP is being recognized, and I encourage you to keep it up. Please continue to engage students, and demonstrate that college is for them. I also encourage you to continue to bring new teachers, administrators and communities on board with the idea that every student can be successful. Your efforts are crucial to convince policymakers and funders that GEAR UP is a worthwhile investment that will pay returns for years to come. We are seeing promising research from the GEAR UP model, and know individual programs that are proving in innovative ways that students and families are ready and able to become college students and college families.

I look forward to hearing from even more of you in the coming months and years, and hope that you are sharing your successes with your communities. Thank you for all that you do to give families a brighter future and build a stronger American economy. If you believe, you can achieve!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chaka Fattah". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial "C" and "F".

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress