Proposal to Make DC Public Schools and LEAs Operating in the District of Columbia
Sanctuary Schools (Safe Zones)

March 1, 2017

To: Jennifer Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education
Cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
David Grosso, Chairperson, DC Council Committee on Education
Karl Racine, DC Attorney General
Antwan Davis, Chancellor, DC Public Schools
Scott Pearson, Executive Director, DC Public Charter School Board
Hansuel Kang, State Superintendent of Education, OSSE
Karen Williams, President, State Board of Education
Joyanna Smith, Ombudsman, State Board of Education
Faith Gibson, Chief Student Advocate, State Board of Education

Re: Response to Deputy Mayor for Education Jennifer Niles’ reply dated February 24, 2017

Dear Ms. Niles,

Thank you for sending your response to our sanctuary schools/safe zone proposal submitted on February 14, 2017.

The organizations and individuals who supported this proposal were aware of most, if not all, of the communications referenced in your email. Those efforts are greatly appreciated but do not include several components necessary to provide greater reassurance to DC students, families, and educators, namely:

- Assigning a unit to handle law enforcement
- Restricting access to school property
- Establishing a rapid response team in the event a student's caregivers are detained

After consulting with Teaching for Change's partners and allies, we may follow up with you on this matter further. In the meantime, seeing that our immigrant students and families continue to live in fear, we strongly urge DCPS and other LEAs to revisit these particular aspects of sanctuary/safe zone policies.

Sincerely,

Allyson Criner Brown
Associate Director/Tellin’ Stories Project Manager