**DC STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**DECEMBER 15, 2010**

**Testimony of Lyric Carter**

**Good Evening or as we say in Chinese - Zao Shang Hao.**

**My name is Lyric Carter and I'm a junior at Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School. I've been taking Chinese for 2 years at Phelps and after high school I plan to attend college as a pre-law major with a focus on International Law. The study of Chinese language and culture will greatly enhance my career goals.**

**This past summer I was selected to participate in a 6 week study abroad program in the Peoples Republic of China and in particular the capital, Beijing. This event was a life transforming experience; not only was I able to enhance my Chinese language skills, I was also able to learn first hand about a country for which my country has and will have an important relationship. My visit was not a vacation but rather an opportunity to learn about the Chinese people and culture, up close. In many ways my language studies were brought to life by living in a country for 6 weeks.**

**As a result of the summer trip to China, I've been more open and willing to try new things and participate in activities that take me out of my 'comfort zone.' Most importantly, this trip has taught me more about myself as a person. I now understand the importance of citizens of different nations spending time in each others country. It**

**is my hope that many more young people would be able to share this wonderful opportunity that was given to me. The challenges that face our world and our two nations will require that more, not less, of us gain firsthand knowledge of the Chinese language, its nation and its people.**

**Xie Xie or Thank You, for allowing me to share my study abroad China experience.**