



ED, CharterRegs

From: Jill Scavincky <jscavincky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 11:42 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] RE: Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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October 5th, 2021

To: The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission

333 Market St, 14th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

RA-EDCharterRegs@pa.gov

RE: Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

I want to start with telling you our personal story in a nutshell. My boys were getting physically and mentally bullied daily and the district was inadequately supporting my son's special needs. I had no choice but to move them to cyber schooling at home. Did I want to become a full-time learning coach for 3 kids? No. But I knew there was no way they were going to make it in our district. I do not regret that choice one bit. The opportunities that PA Virtual has given my kids have been nothing short of amazing. And to be honest, how dare this legislation threaten to take away their ability to have the best education possible. I understand that there are some things that CAN be changed in the ways that funding is allocated. But what you are proposing is borderline criminal.

I find that this regulation will do nothing to fix the problems between charter schools and district schools when it comes to the transfer of funding so that kids get their resources at the schools that they attend in a prompt manner. In fact, the Department of Education, the group that is pushing for these regulations, actually hopes that less charter schools can ask for redirections of tuitions for their students. And the Department is hoping to save less than \$60,000 annually with this regulation, even if it costs charter school students millions collectively across Pennsylvania.

That is simply wrong.

Why would the Department of Education make it harder for a group of kids in PA's K-12 public education world that are, generally speaking, more apt of be poor, Black, Brown, and from hardscrabble neighborhoods? Why would the Wolf Administration want charter schools that have seen enrollments almost double in the last 10 years want to stop these schools from serving kids that have been struggling for the longest time? Why would the state put a regulation into place that can make it harder for these schools to get taxpayer dollars that are already set aside to help my kids and kids like mine? All to save \$60,000? That's worth less than 10 minutes of time for the Department's annual budget. This regulation isn't about accountability within public education. This is about picking winners and losers within public education, and it's picking against poor kids that overwhelming make up the charter school enrollments.

That is simply wrong.

The Wolf Administration should stop this and work with the elected officials in Harrisburg to make laws that help those most in need in both public district schools and public charter schools. Doing it through regulations written by some unelected lobbyist isn't the answer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jill Scavincky

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