

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: Sheri Fabiani <ohannawriter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:30 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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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 am writing to express my opposition to Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools.

I find that this regulation does not create a fair playing field between authorizers and charter school operators trying to give parents another choice in K-12 education. As written, the regulation creates a minimum standard that all authorizers must meet, but it does not restrict the ability of the authorizing party to create "over the top" and burdensome requirements during the application process. As written, authorizers can drown charter school administrators in red tape whenever they try to keep their schools open with a renewed charter or expand their schools because parents are happy with the results. The regulation leaves too much open for school districts to include requirements that end up being anti-charter, leaving room to be grounds for denial of new charters, renewals of charters, and expansion of charters. How is this helping Pennsylvania families that continue to look for options even while public school districts lose enrollment?

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.

These regulations are not offered to help Pennsylvania parents. They seem to be proposed to help the authorizers, not the charter schools and the parents that keep enrolling their kids there. These regulations are not balanced and, therefore, should not be put into law.

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 overwhelmingly make up the charter school enrollments.

Again, that is just plain 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. Creating laws through unelected bureaucracy is not what democracy is all about.

Regards,
Mrs. Sheri L. Fabiani