

**ED, CharterRegs**

From: Mary Ann C <maryann.calderone@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 7:17 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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10/06/2021

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 oppose Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools, and I want to make my feelings known. I understand what the regulation seeks to do on the surface. It wants to make sure that teachers and employees at charter schools can receive quality healthcare benefits like my peers at public district schools do. And I appreciate that. And yet, I also know that my charter school simply won't ever receive the type of group insurance rates that the big schools and school districts provide. If my charter school had to fork out that amount of money, it could run the risk of shedding jobs, including mine.

I enjoy working at my charter school. I don't want that to happen.

Plus, I trust my administrators at my school to do what is best for me and for our school community. We are in this together. We know that there will simply be some advantages that the larger LEAs will have that we don't. And yet, part of the reason why I decided to work at my charter school is because we do well with what we have. We succeed even though charters get roughly 25% less on average than our peer public schools in school districts across the state. We are treated fairly in the classroom through innovation and in the administration with creative ways to help us as professionals.

I enjoy working at my charter school, and I trust the people in my charter school community. I don't want a regulation to risk that, or my job.

I hope that Governor Wolf and the Department of Education hear me and people like me that make up the charter school community. There was well over 170,000 of us last year, between students and educators like me. We want the ability to be treated fairly in order to succeed as charter schools. We can't afford regulations that can drive us to the brink, and we can't afford to be on the brink if we're going to help our students move away from the brink. Regulations aren't the answer, Governor Wolf and Acting Secretary Ortega. Legislation that is balanced, bipartisan, and beneficial to us all is.

Thanks for listening.

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