

**ED, CharterRegs**

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**From:** Guy.Ciarrocchi <guy.ciarrocchi@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:17 AM  
**To:** ED, CharterRegs  
**Cc:** GLC  
**Subject:** [External] Letter in Opposition to the Proposed PDE regs relating to charter schools  
**Attachments:** GuyCiarrocchi.IRRCLetter.PDEcharterRegs.Oct.2021.pdf

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Attached please find my letter. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

guy  
Guy Ciarrocchi  
610-787-1463  
GUYforGOV.com

## **Guy Ciarrocchi**

495 Virginia Avenue, Paoli, PA 19301

**RE: Proposed Regulations #6-349 (PDE): Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools.**

To The Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

**I write in strong opposition to these proposed regulations. These regulations are not permitted by current law; will harm existing schools; deter the creation of new schools; and, harm current and future would-be students in charter schools.**

Laws are to be written by the legislature; not through administrative orders. This is legislation by executive order because this current administration has failed to persuade the legislature and the public that its ideas are worth enacting into law. Given the Governor's public comments, it is no surprise these regulations are punitive to charter school students. Moreover, the custom of the regulatory process was ignored: PDE failed to consult in any meaningful way with the regulated community—charter school operators.

The objective is clear: make it harder to successfully operate a charter school and serve its students by reducing funding and creating added burdens. Some of these issues include:

- A statewide application makes sense so a new or renewal applicant can reasonably expect what information they need to address. But, allowing—if not encouraging—local districts to add-on additional red-tape runs contrary to the idea of standardization and fairness.
- The payment redirection process does nothing to penalize school districts that break the law and refuse to pay a charter school—i.e., the root of the problem. PDE's silence condones this action. Charter schools are put in a precarious financial position as it also appears to conflict with the current statute that requires 12 equal payments, by only accepting payment requests July through May.
- Requiring a charter school to provide health benefits with “substantially equivalent” cost-sharing structure and plan type or to be funded in an amount “not less than the charter school's authorizer” are both unrealistic and fiscally irresponsible. This provision is contrary to current labor law, which provides for negotiation of benefits between an employer and any union represented within the organization. This is a one-size-fits-all mandate that is designed to harm charter school budgets.

The charter school law was created to help children succeed; to empower parents with more choices and to allow for innovation to help all students. These regulations clearly seek to impede and harm charter schools—the one sector of schools that are growing. The Governor has repeatedly said as much. He dislikes charter schools and competition—and, he dislikes parents having choices.

Please reject these proposed regulations. As we live in a democratic republic, the administration is entitled to be opposed to charter schools, even if its views are wrong and harmful to children. Yet, it is not entitled to undermine the law to impose king-like dictates; and, should not be permitted to do so. Let the debate continue in public, with citizens and legislators having their rightful input.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Guy Ciarrocchi