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Regulation #6-349 Charter School and Cyber Charter Schools IRRC#3315 from the Department of Education

I support all of the recommendations suggested. The Pennsylvania Charter School Law, as it now stands barely regulates charter schools. It deserves to be called the worst charter school law in the nation. It is as if the original law was written to be the newest avenue for political patronage.

I am not an attorney so I don't have the background to go over the law with a fine-toothed comb. However, I have seen how it has affected the children in my district.

Over the past 10 years I have become familiar with the charter applications submitted to and reviewed by the Charter Office of the Philadelphia School District. I have been appalled by the poor quality of many of those applications which have been poorly thought out, lacking in details and ignorant of state education standards. I have watched as charter schools cherry-pick their students through various barriers (some subtle, some outright) to enrollment, and the lack of due process afforded students in existing Philadelphia charter schools. I have watched as charters engaged in questionable financial practices with little accountability or consequences.

Because of the quality of the law as it now stands, there has been little accountability, equity or transparency. The CAB ensures that districts can't hold charters accountable. If charters are public schools they must be just as accountable to the public as district schools are.

The recommended changes proposed in Regulation #6-349 are common sense regulations that would help level the playing field and ensure that taxpayer money is not being wasted. They are a good start. I fully support them.

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