



ED, CharterRegs

From: Rikki Jones <rikki.m.jones@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 6:13 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] RE: Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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10/12/21

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 peers at public district schools do. And I appreciate that. And yet, I also know that small charter schools simply won't ever receive the type of group insurance rates that the big schools and school districts provide. If our charter school had to fork out that amount of money, it could run the risk of shedding jobs and possibly closing. I wholeheartedly, trust the administrators at my child's school to do what is best for our school community. We are all in this together. We know that there will simply be some advantages that the larger school districts will have that Charter Schools don't, but the teachers know that and continue to work there because they care more about their school community. Our Charter school succeeds even though charters get roughly 25% less on average than that of peer public schools in school districts across the state. My son's Charter School teachers are treated fairly in the classroom through innovation, collaboration and support from the administration.

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 people in the Charter School community last year, between students and educators. I want Charter Schools to have the ability to be treated fairly in order to succeed as charter schools. They just can't afford regulations that can drive them to the brink, and they can't afford to be on the brink if they are going to help their students. Regulations aren't the answer, Governor Wolf and Acting Secretary Ortega. Legislation that is balanced, bipartisan, and beneficial to us all is.

Thank you for listening.

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