



ED, CharterRegs

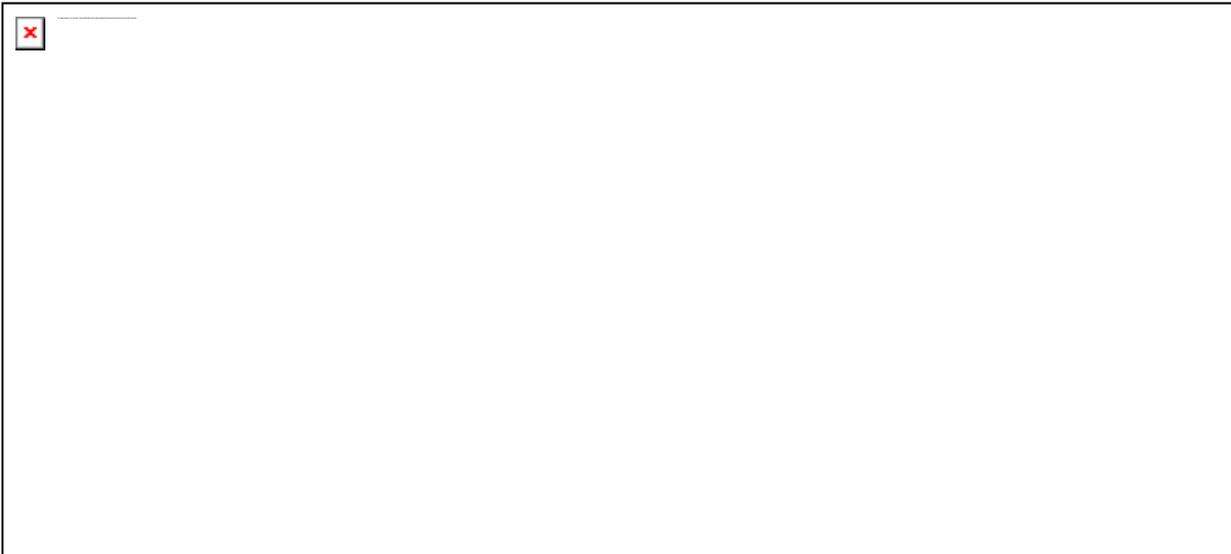
From: Sherese Jefferson <sjefferson@reach.connectionsacademy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:33 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attachments: Regulation #6-349- Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools.pdf

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To Whom It May Concern at **The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission**

Attached is my letter opposing Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sherese Jefferson



October 19, 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 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. 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.

In my role as a School Counselor for a cyber charter school, I have seen countless students able to thrive in the cyber setting because in-person brick and mortar school did not suit their unique needs. I have students that are competitive athletes who need a flexible school schedule to pursue their dreams, students with crippling mental health issues such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety, as well as students with severe medical concerns that have weekly doctors’ visits. Each of these unique situations cause these students to miss a lot of school. If these students and families did not have the option of a cyber charter school that can be adapted and tailored to their specific needs, I personally believe that their lives and school careers would be devastated.

These regulations are not balanced and therefore should not be put into law. It is my hope that you rescind this process and work with elected lawmakers to create policies that make sense for all schools. Creating laws through unelected bureaucracy is not what democracy is all about.

Thank you for your consideration,



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