

As the mother of 3 young children, and a family impacted by COVID-19 shutdowns, I fully support this bill. When schools shut down in 2020, I immediately began looking for online options. I had a TAG student and a child entertaining kindergarten the next fall. I applied for local online charters and was delayed by a need to obtain approval to transfer from schools that were not even open. Additionally, my kindergartner had never even been enrolled in the district, yet they still required the district to sign off on his enrollment.

Fortunately my oldest was accepted to a charter and has gotten a decent education over the last year. My kindergartner has not been as lucky. He was rejected from the charter due to caps on local enrollment. The public school he was meant to enroll in continued to be closed. Our family made the hard decision to pay for private online school.

Capping charter school enrollment just does not make sense. If our goal is to provide quality education to the largest number of students, we should allow experienced online charters to do that. Our school districts need to share funding with online charters instead of hoarding money while hurting our kids.

Please pass this bill and give all students a chance at an education during and after this pandemic.

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