

Chair Roblan, and members of the committee, my name is Brett Duvall. I thank you for your time and attention.

I am the proud graduate of public education. I believe that a strong public education system has been instrumental in the success of America. I do believe that there exists a space for unique and different spaces. Charter schools provide an opportunity for families to find and choose an optimal environment for their children. The requirements for success in our modern global technical economy necessitate a diverse range of schooling. Charter education will always be a niche piece of the public education system, but one that can address certain areas

This fall (for school year 2015/16) my daughter will join her brother and sister at Hope Chinese Charter School (HCCS) as a kindergartner. In HCCS we have found a special place that embraces children, cares for them while educating them in a challenging loving environment.

In the case of HCCS:

- Language immersion: Bilingual and even multilingual individuals have been shown both in scientific study and history to represent thinking, solutions and achievements that exceed the average. Our Founding Fathers, Newton, Einstein, Adam Smith, and on and on and on all spoke fluently multiple languages.
- Smaller classes: Our class sizes are generally below district norms. This allows more time and attention for each child to learn, grow and find a place.
- Teacher / Student ratios: HCCS maintains a teacher/aide to student ratio in some classes of 12:1.
- Smaller school: Smaller organizations foster adaptability and flexibility. The layers to manage change and processes have less inertia to move and deal with issues on a daily basis as well as longer term.

Funding for our public school children is drastically below our neighbors children receive. Factor out buildings, real estate, human resources, accounting, information systems, and transportation and the inequity grows farther and farther.

Each and every charter school must create, manage and maintain most of the operational and support services. Even more precious dollars have to flow away from teaching and into overhead.

Simply put the funding model as it stands is imbalanced and unfair. The support and services available to the children at charter schools is radically lower than their peers. Please allow funding to follow the students.

Thank you,

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