

Senate Bill 208-A Testimony in Support WITH NEW AMENDMENT May 22, 2017

Chair Doherty and House Committee on Education Members,

My testimony supports SB 208-A, **with a suggested amendment.**

SB 208-A was amended to allow the school district to impose a fee on the charter school, for each student participating in an interscholastic activity. **I am concerned that charter schools will begin to make policies that no students will be allowed to participate in an interscholastic activity, and will require this as a condition for admittance into the charter.**

To my knowledge, nothing prohibits a charter from making such a policy, as they are able to make certain stipulations for agreeing to enroll.

I have a hard time believing that it costs the school district as much money as is proposed to require the charter to pay the district. Parents pay tax dollars into their local schools. That should be sufficient for the public school to operate the very few extra students who might participate.

However, if such fee is allowed, **please adopt an amendment which prohibits charter schools from making any policy which would require the students to agree to not participate in school district interscholastic activities, as a condition for enrollment.**

And please pass this bill to allow charter school students the freedom which all students should have, the ability to participate in an interscholastic activity.

Thank you.

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Former home schooler (children now grown)