

Testimony of

Brenda Windsor

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Before the

Education Committee

March 1, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in opposition to Senate Bill 1096. This proposed legislation would take away millions of dollars of funds from our public schools. Decisions about these public school funds would be taken away from democratically elected legislators and given to political appointees and bureaucrats to hand out to new corporate-run charter schools. We can't keep expanding charter schools that are businesses at the expense of students in our local taxpayer funded public schools.

My ongoing concern stems from political and governmental mandates for public school education with lack of funding to support such mandates. To remove more money from our public classrooms to educate only children able to fit the mold of charter school policies, leaves wider gaps in public school classrooms with less support to educate those most at risk. We already have too many people lacking educational understanding setting the expectations at impossible levels without the support, training, or funding to meet the needs. Teachers need more training to support learners with mental health issues causing the learners to be unavailable for learning, more training on how to meet the needs of increased 504s and still be able to be available to the more typical learners, and time to learn and understand all of the changes in educational mandates. Giving more money to charter school programs is not the answer to fixing a very broken system. Creating a for profit business on the backs of children is one of the most corrupt ideas imaginable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

