

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

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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. Charter schools are simply businesses which can choose to serve whichever constituency it wants. They can exclude English Language learners and Special Education learners. They also take money away from the public schools of a district at the expense of students in our local taxpayer funded public schools.

Further, it has been proven for over two decades that Charter Schools, for the most part, do not perform any better than their local school districts. Hence, it is imperative the decision to add a new charter school should be run through our democratically elected legislators.

