

Sent via fax

May 9, 2017

Hon. Vincent Hughes
545 Capitol Building
Senate Box 203007
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007

Dear Senator Hughes:

As the parents of children in Philadelphia charter schools, it is disheartening to read your comments that once again pit charters against District schools.

We all agree that Philadelphia public schools need more funding. But your comments about charters penalizing District schools is wrong and unfair to the thousands of families – including many who live in your senatorial district – who have chosen charter schools as the best option to give their children a quality education.

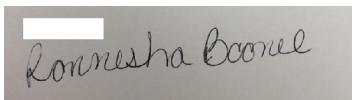
Pitting charters against District schools is a tired argument that doesn't serve our children at all. Charters don't penalize traditional schools, Senator. In fact, it's exactly the opposite: Charters exist largely because traditional schools have not served our children very well. And charters are growing because families like ours demand better options than the School District can provide. For our families, charters often are the only way out of a school system that penalizes children in poverty by not offering them the same educational choices that families from wealthier zip codes enjoy every day.

So when you shout about the District being too lenient in attempting to cap enrollment at successful charter schools, you do not speak for us. Nor do you speak for the families of the 65,000 children already enrolled in charter schools; not to mention the estimated 30,000 wait-listed children whose families would choose charter schools if given the chance.

Respectfully, telling the Speaker of the House to “stay the hell out of Philadelphia” may grab headlines and win political points with the teachers’ union, but it does nothing to improve education for our children.

Charters are here to stay, and it's time for leaders on both sides to figure out a future in which quality charters and District schools can co-exist. We hope that you will take this letter to heart, Senator, because it is long past time for both sides to talk with each other instead of screaming at each other. We need a plan that gives all Philadelphia children an opportunity to attend great schools, and we urge you to help lead that effort.

Sincerely,



Ranesha Boone
Waiting List Parent
EOF Philly



Toya Algarin
KIPP Parent
EOF Philly



William Jackson
Mastery Parent
EOF Philly