



TO: Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
FROM: Aaron Riggleman, Manager, Government Affairs
DATE: June 10th, 2024
RE: **Oppose H.B. 2370 - Gutting Educational Choices for Students**

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber to oppose H.B. 2370, which the House may consider this week. H.B. 2370 aims to implement the recommendations of the majority Basic Education Funding Commission report, including adjustment to the funding formula, drastic charter school reforms, and increases in K-12 spending.

The PA Chamber's member drive, board-approved Education Policy Statement supports policies that "provide and strengthen competitive educational systems and programs, such as high-performing charter schools, and the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, that provide options for parents and students." Unfortunately, as presently constructed, H.B. 2370 could negatively impact hundreds of thousands of students attending charter schools in the Commonwealth.

Many charter schools provide a valuable alternative to traditional public schools, often offering specialized programs and innovative teaching methods that cater to the diverse learning needs of students. Charter schools have experienced dramatic increases in enrollment over the past two decades, and we have serious concerns with any proposals that would have the effect of restricting access to these unique educational opportunities, particularly for students who are not thriving in conventional school environments.

Additionally, this legislation would tilt the playing field away from charter schools requiring them to meet unrealistic standards that are not mandated for any other educational opportunities, including traditional K-12 public schools.

We urge you to oppose H.B. 2370. Please contact Aaron Riggleman at ariggleman@pachamber.org or 724-640-3290 with questions or to discuss.