



For Immediate Release
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Historic vote lifts restrictions on MI charter public schools

SB 618 provides families with additional educational choices and options

Lansing, Mich. — The Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers (The Council) said the approval tonight of SB 618 by the Michigan House of Representatives is a historic vote for Michigan school students and their parents by providing them additional choices and options. The House approved SB 618, which would lift the arbitrary legislative cap on charter schools authorized by the state's public universities, by a 58-49 vote.

"This approval is about doing what is best for our kids," said Billie Kops Wimmer, Executive Director of The Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers (The Council). "Lifting the cap is an opportunity to give parents more options for their children's education. Charter public schools will better serve families by promoting innovation and creating competition in education, which will improve quality."

The Council released a recent study that showed the longer students are in charter schools, the more their scores improved on state standardized tests. After being enrolled in a charter public school for three continuous years, students meet the state average in reading and math even though these children are much more likely to be at-risk than students statewide.

The legislation goes back to the Senate where it has differences from a version passed by the chamber earlier this year.

The Council represents the unified voice of Michigan's authorizers and a professional association of public education agencies. The Council authorizes nearly 85 percent of Michigan's charter public schools educating 115,000 students throughout the state.

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