



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Quality is # 1 in MI Charter Public Schools Bill SB 618 will lead to more high performing charters in Michigan**

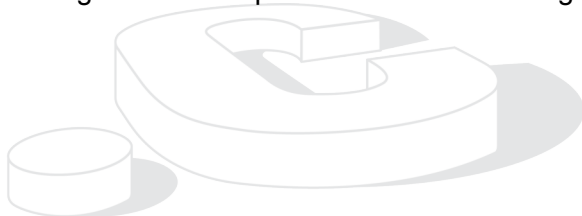
Lansing, Mich. — According to the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers (The Council), quality is the number one priority in the bill lifting the arbitrary legislative cap on charter schools authorized by the state's public universities. The Michigan House approved SB 618 last night and the Senate concurred this morning, sending the legislation to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk for final approval.

"Quality has always been the number one priority for Michigan's charter public schools and this legislation lifting restrictions on charters will strengthen accountability, oversight and transparency," said Billie Kops Wimmer, Executive Director of The Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers. "Under the three-year phase for lifting the cap, authorizers will conduct a methodical, thorough and competitive charter application process."

Roughly 1 in every 40 applicants is granted a charter in Michigan. SB 618 raises academic standards for all charter public schools by strengthening accountability on academic performance; fiscal management; and transparency for schools, operators and authorizers. For the first time in state law, this bill will require demonstrated improved academic achievement for all groups of students as the most important factor for charter contract renewal.

The Council released a recent report 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 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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