

Date:

The Honorable _____

Address _____

Dear

Fair funding of public education is a priority of the New York State PTA. Our current position, established in 2001, seeks to address the negative financial impact of charter schools on traditional public schools. The Charter School Act provides for per pupil funds to be drawn from school district operating expenses; requires that textbooks, transportation, computer software, library materials and health and welfare services be provided; and, in the event of contingency budgets, the requirement to finance a charter school may result in having to eliminate or cut programs in traditional public schools of a district. Districts take an additional financial hit when students who signed to attend charter schools change their minds and return to the district, or if a charter school closes mid-year. NYS PTA supports legislation to change the method of funding New York's charter schools in order to eliminate the potential for an adverse effect upon traditional public schools and the communities they are intended to benefit.

While the Governor proposed increasing the cap on charter schools in order to make New York competitive for Race to the Top funding, the potential impact on local schools is devastating. If the cap on charter schools must be raised, funding to offset the financial impact on regular public schools must be provided.

NYS PTA acknowledges charter schools as an avenue to school reform and supports actions that rationally invest in innovation and experimentation. It is the hope of the NYS PTA that the allocation of new resources will be invested wisely in initiatives that produce measurable and sustainable gains for all students. To ensure the promise of modeling innovative public education, charter schools must be open to all students, adhere to state and federal laws governing public schools, include meaningful parent involvement, be accountable to local school boards, and be funded in a way that does not undermine the opportunity to provide students in traditional public schools with excellence in education and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Address _____
