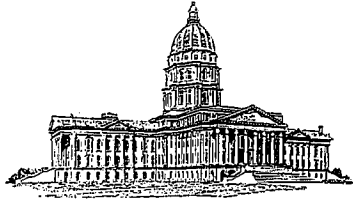


State of Kansas
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Connie O'Brien
Representative, 42nd District

Re: House Bill 2580

Charter schools are providing parents with a choice to insure their child will receive an exceptional alternative to public education. Charter schools provide individual attention innovative curricula, and better than average achievement. Students in traditional public schools who need an alternative besides private schools are looking to charter schools to fill that gap. It is part of the educational Race to the top program and Kansas needs a charter school with less ties to public education. Charter schools serve populations that are more likely to be poor and attend low performing neighborhood schools, this gives them an alternative without a voucher program.

Students today need to be prepared to enter the work force, attend a technical school, or go on to college. Students need to have skills to obtain a job, which involves reading and writing. Scores show that we are losing some of these students by their 11th year in school, these students need an alternative. Charter schools can help when traditional programs fail. If a charter school is not doing their job their charter school is not doing their job, their charter can be revoked and the school closed. You cannot do this to a public school. If we are truly concerned with students learning we will be willing to give them opportunities and their chances to learn.

Rep. Connie O'Brien
Kansas State House 42nd District