

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARREN, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION: 17-05-04

**A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OPPOSE HOUSE
BILL 97 AND URGES ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS TO REJECT HOUSE BILL 97 IN FAVOR OF A
DIFFERENT APPROACH THAT ADDRESSES TRUE REFORM IN THE CORE AREAS OF FUNDING,
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's outdated Charter School Law is 20 years old and changes are needed to address concerns and update issues regarding funding, accountability, transparency and academic performance of charter schools and cyber charter schools; and

WHEREAS, charter schools are publicly funded and privately operated institutions governed by non-elected boards that are not accountable to taxpayers, yet paid for with local school districts funds; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School Law exempts charters from many of the state's statutory and regulatory requirements and creates an uneven playing field in numerous important areas, including but not limited to fiscal management, audits, conflicts of interest, public reporting, student enrollment, instruction and services, staffing and evaluation, thereby exacerbating inequality with traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, the current funding formulas for charter schools have no relationship to the actual instructional costs of the students attending the charter school, particularly for special education instruction and services, resulting in escalating costs and overpayments by school districts and taxpayers to charter schools; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is considering omnibus charter school legislation under House Bill 97 that fails to establish meaningful change. Among the most troubling provisions are: a funding commission that is too broadly focused; an unbalanced composition of the state Charter School Appeal Board; expanded charter terms and renewals that further remove authorizer oversight; a limited matrix for evaluating renewals; a faulty process for amending a charter; and the creation of a double standard for teacher evaluation that is less than that of traditional public schools.

WHEREAS, the Warren County School District Board of School Directors believes that charter schools should be held to the same standards of academic performance, accountability and transparency that local school districts must uphold.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warren County School District Board of School Directors opposes House Bill 97 and urges its elected officials to reject House Bill 97 in favor of a different approach that addresses true reform in the core areas of funding, accountability and governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Warren County School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 18th day of May, 2017.

ATTEST:

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Secretary

Board President