

Dear [legislator],

My name is [name], and I'm [job title/parent] at [school], a public charter school in your district. I write to respectfully request your support for HB 219, Charter School Omnibus.

Public charter schools are part of the public school family. But public charter school students receive **37% less local funding**, on average, than public district school students. (Source: BEST NC)

At issue in the debate over HB 219 is the core purpose of taxpayer funding for public education: Are taxpayer dollars meant for school *students* to receive a public education, or are taxpayer dollars meant for school *systems* to spend as they see fit?

In my opinion, public charter school students deserve just as much local K-12 operating funding as public district school students. Some public school students should not have less local funding than others simply because their parents chose a public charter school.

HB 219 would make funding parity a reality. Importantly, the bill only contemplates general K-12 *operating* funds.

The original state law authorizing public charter schools required **fair and equal local funding**, and state courts ordered such many times over the years. But in 2010 that law changed, causing the unequal funding we see today. HB 219 reverts back to the original local funding model for public charter schools.

Opponents of HB 219 are treating taxpayer funding as if it belongs to a particular system or bureaucracy. But it doesn't: It belongs to the student, and the commitment to a quality education shouldn't change based on which public school a child attends.

Sincerely,

Name

Questions about HB 219? Please contact:

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