



School of Education
Office of Charter Schools

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Dear Steering and Rules Committee member:

I am writing in regards to the Steering and Rules Committee hearing today dealing with the proposed resolution for a five-year moratorium on any new City of Milwaukee charter schools. As a resident of the City of Milwaukee and one who leads a charter authorizing office, I am asking that you not approve this resolution.

As a resident, I believe options should be available for our families to make choices regarding their children's educational needs. Placing a moratorium for this period of time definitely takes away potential choices from our families. Additionally, if there is interest in replication by your current high performing charter schools, this resolution appears to take away that possibility as well.

As the director of the Office of Charter Schools at UW-Milwaukee, I understand the significance of ensuring charter schools authorized are high-performing or showing significant growth in closing the achievement gap and the need to close those that do not meet the performance targets outlined in the charter agreements. Each authorizer must periodically review the academic, financial and organizational performance targets being used to evaluate the charter schools within its portfolio and make necessary changes. If an actual premise around this resolution is revisiting and revising the current evaluation process being used, I do not believe placing a five-year moratorium on new charters will help in assessing the current evaluation system or prove beneficial in other substantial ways.

I have had the opportunity this year to collaborate in small, but meaningful ways with Mr. Jarett Fields from the City's authorizing office, as well as, the director from the MPS charter office to develop statements of quality that we all are willing to adhere to in our respective roles and ensure charter schools in Milwaukee are providing high quality educational programs to the children they serve. This type of collaboration will help us move forward, not instituting resolutions that seek to satisfy a portion of our community.

Again, I ask that you reject this resolution and continue to support charter schools that are providing quality education for our children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne L. Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Adrienne L Woods
Director