



DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

December 14, 2021

Chairman Thiesfeldt and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on AB 721 relating to eliminating the cap on the number of charter schools authorized by a tribal college.

Under current law, multiple entities are permitted to establish and operate charter schools. Out of all of the authorized entities, only tribal colleges are restricted to a specific number of schools. This legislation will lift the cap on the number of independent charter schools a tribal college may authorize. Current law allows tribal colleges to authorize a maximum of six charter schools between the only two tribal colleges in Wisconsin, the College of Menominee Nation and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.

The Office of Educational Opportunity in the UW System, a technical college district board, and the county executive of Waukesha County currently are able to establish and operate charter schools, but do not face the same numerical restrictions. Most authorizers are restricted by geographical boundaries.

This legislation aims to eliminate the arbitrary cap on the number of schools that a tribal college is allowed to authorize, and creates parity between tribal colleges and other authorizers of charter schools in addition to expanding school choice and educational opportunity across Wisconsin.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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DALE KOOYENGA
STATE SENATOR · 5TH DISTRICT

State Capitol · P.O. Box 7882 · Madison, WI 53707-7882 · (608) 266-2512

December 14, 2021

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Education

FR: Senator Dale Kooyenga

RE: Support for AB 721 – the number of independent charter schools authorized by the College of Menominee Nation or the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.

Thank you for holding a hearing on AB 721. This legislation lifts the cap on the number of independent charter schools a tribal college may authorize.

Under current law tribal colleges are the only authorizers for independent charter schools that are capped at the number of schools they may authorize. There are several entities that are authorized to establish and operate a charter school – such as the Office of Educational Opportunity in the UW System, a technical college district board, the county executive of Waukesha County, the college of Menominee Nation, and the Lac Coute Oreilles Ojibwa community college. Tribal colleges are only allowed to authorize a maximum of six charter schools between the only two tribal colleges in Wisconsin.

This legislation would eliminate the arbitrary cap on the number of schools that a tribal college is allowed to authorize and bring parity to the authorizing bodies for independent charter schools.

Thank you for hearing AB 721. I respectfully ask for your support.