



LEAH VUKMIR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FROM: Representative Leah Vukmir, Chair, Special Committee on Charter Schools

RE: Status Report on Charter Schools

DATE: June 5, 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today regarding the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Charter Schools. As you are aware, this Special Committee, which I chair, was directed to study state laws relating to charter schools and develop proposed legislation for new charter schools to be created and to improve the ability of charter schools to serve pupils. Our committee, consisting of two Senators, three Representatives, and 11 public members, has met four times on the following dates: September 26, 2006; October 17, 2006; November 28, 2006; and December 19, 2006.

As a result of committee discussions at these meetings, a draft has been prepared that, I believe, will form the basis of our recommendation. This draft expands the number of entities that may establish charter schools and creates an appeal process for decisions made by school boards and other chartering entities relating to charter schools. The committee has not yet voted on this draft.

A meeting was scheduled in April for the committee to work on the details of this draft and vote on it. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting had to be canceled.

I believe one additional meeting is needed so that the committee can complete its assignment.

If you have any questions, I will be glad to answer them. Thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you.

LV:ksm