

## House Bill 2100, Amendments # 3&4 (Rep. Welch) Senate Bill 1226, Amendment # 1 (Sen. Holmes) Abolish the State Charter School Commission

### IEA Position- SUPPORT

#### Rationale for Support

The Illinois Education Association supports the concept of charter schools in the state of Illinois. However, charter schools should be approved by a locally elected school board and supported by the community before they are allowed to open. The bill would abolish the State Charter School Commission, removing the ability of any state entity to overturn the decision of a local school board to deny a charter school application. This initiative would create a charter school application process where only locally elected school boards and parents could decide if a charter school is good for their community. The legislation places all currently existing charter schools authorized by the commission under the authority of ISBE beginning June of 2020.

#### Analysis

- The State Charter School Commission is not elected by local taxpayers. Therefore, it should not have the final decision on whether or not a charter school should be opened in local school districts. The State Charter School Commission has overturned local school boards nine times. That is nine times too many.
- Local school board members are elected by taxpayers to decide what is best for their schools and the students residing in their school districts.
- A charter school that is approved by the Commission, rather than by the local school board, is not held to any accountability by the community in which it resides. However, the local district is accountable for paying 100% of the tuition cost to the charter school.
- A local appeal route for charter schools already exists. Local voters can also petition to have the question of establishing a charter school placed on the ballot of the next regularly scheduled election.



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