

Missouri Association of School Business Officials

3550 Amazonas Dr.
Jefferson City, MO 65109
636- 644-7900
www.moasbo.org



February 3, 2017

Dear Members of the Missouri House of Representatives Elementary and Secondary Education Committee:

My name is Kim Cranston and I am the executive director of the Missouri Association of School Business Officials (MoASBO). MoASBO is a professional association of more than 500 school district officials and employees whose expertise is in the area of school business administration.

I am writing on behalf of these business professionals from across the state to urge you to reject HB 634 due to its financial impact on Missouri public schools. With the budgetary stress that school districts have been facing in recent years, an examination of the fiscal impact of charter school expansion is clearly warranted.

Charter schools can have a negative fiscal impact on local school districts because resources are distributed away from districts. As students leave a traditional school district for a charter school, funding leaves the school district. However, the costs of educating students in the local public school district remain largely unchanged. This results in a reduction in services, which represents a burden for students and their families. These families, who are already paying taxes that help fund education, will have to bear even more of a financial burden to maintain the educational services they expect for their children.

The effect of charter schools taking away resources from school districts is illustrated in the attached documents. I have provided examples from six school districts that clearly indicate the significant, negative impact of charter school expansion.

Financial information obtained from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website was used to create a model to calculate the financial impact on these districts. To utilize reasonable assumptions, districts were asked to assume that a small number (100) of students would leave their local district for charter schools. It is clear that expansion of charter schools will result in a direct impact on the local schools in our communities.

Expanding charter schools as outlined in HB 634 will have a direct financial impact on schools, taxpayers, students, and parents. We ask you to vote "NO" on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kim Cranston

Executive Director

Fiscal impact of charter schools:

- Jefferson City Public Schools – Jason Hoffman, CFO

We send \$6,380/student to the charter schools or \$638,000 for every 100 students. This number is due to the low operating levy we have (\$3.44). If we pass our levy in April, it would increase our charge to \$6,995/student.

- Fulton Public Schools – Jacque Cowherd, Superintendent

The effect on Fulton following this calculation is estimated at \$4,868.00 per WADA. If ten students left Fulton Schools, the amount is estimated at \$48,689.14 or about the average cost of a classroom teacher.

- Jefferson R-VII School District – Clint Johnston, Superintendent

For Jefferson R-VII, total per WADA to Charters would be \$6,854.77. I used a number of 10 for my school which would equal \$68,547.67.