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Memorandum

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Tony Payton, Jr.
DATE: June 24, 2011
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Multiple Charter School Organization

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to allow the formation of multiple charter school organizations. It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this effort.

Charter schools across this state have proven to be a viable and largely effective avenue for parents to pursue for the education of their children. At present, there are over 140 charter schools operating within this Commonwealth, with roughly half being located in Philadelphia. While there are current provisions in state statute with regards to the merger and consolidation of school districts, no similar opportunity is available for charter schools interested in consolidating administrative functions.

My legislation would enable two or more charter schools to merge into a multiple charter school organization. If approved by the Department of Education, the multiple charter school organization would be granted a single charter to operate two or more individual charter schools under the oversight of a single board of trustees and a chief executive officer who shall oversee and manage the operation of the individual charter schools under its organization. The multiple charter school organization would be subjected to all of the current charter school requirements contained in Article XVII-A of the Public School Code.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation, please contact Tajuanna Wallace in my Harrisburg office at 717-787-1354 or twallace@pahouse.net.