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То:	Members of the House of Representatives
From:	Representative Eddie Pashinski
Date:	June 28, 2012
Subject:	Co-Sponsorship – Charter & Cyber Charter School Actual Cost of Education & Audit Resolution Legislation

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation addressing the Fiscal Accountability and Transparency for charter & cyber charter schools in the Commonwealth.

While several proposals have recently focused on the expansion and reform of charter schools, these bills do not adequately address Fiscal Accountability and Transparency of charter schools.

Currently, funding to charter schools is based on the state share provided to the resident district of enrolled students; this amount is a supplement to the local share within a district and has no correlation to the actual cost of educating a student at a charter school.

This legislation will allow the Commonwealth to appropriately provide funding to charter and cyber charter schools based on the actual cost of education, by requiring year end audits by the Department of Education to determine the actual costs of education services of a charter and cyber charter school and then conduct an annual year end final reconciliation process of tuition payments against actual costs of education services of a charter or cyber charter school. If the actual cost of education services exceeds the tuition payments from school district then the charter or cyber charter school would return any overpayments to the school district. Currently, there are no standards or requirements that schools must be audited. This legislation would establish annual audit standards and requirements for charter schools.

I believe this change to the funding of charter schools will provide a more accurate disbursement of tax payer dollars to charter schools, and ensure that public dollars used to educate students are responsibly spent.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Lauren Bordner via email at <a href="https://libordner@pahouse.net">libordner@pahouse.net</a>