

**RESOLUTION****REQUEST NOT TO RAISE THE EXISTING CAP ON CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools educate different students with disabilities than district schools with at least 85% of Charter School students with disabilities receiving services through full inclusion, as against 65% of district school students with disabilities in full inclusion, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools educate fewer English Language Learners than district schools, with the increases of such students in Charter Schools eclipsed by the increases statewide in district schools, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools “lack of comparability between Charter Schools and sending districts presents significant barriers to any attempt to determine whether the higher Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System performance at certain Charter Schools is attributable to demographic differences or whether innovative practices have produced positive outcomes,” per Massachusetts Auditor Bump’s findings of December 2014, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter Schools have serious enrollment problems, with significant losses by both number and percentage of students from initial enrollment through the final academic year of the school, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools fail to fill empty seats from waitlist, despite the requirement of the Act Relative to the Achievement Gap of 2010, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education has failed to require or to disseminate adequate documentation of innovative programs, best practices, and models within Commonwealth Charter Schools for replications in public schools, per Massachusetts Auditor Bump’s findings, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education has been “inconsistent in its decisions regarding whether to impose conditions for some school charter renewals,” per Massachusetts Auditor Bump’s findings, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth’s reimbursement to districts has failed to be fully funded, seeing funding of 63% in FY14; 55% in FY15; and 69% in FY16, and

WHEREAS, Governor Baker’s proposed reform of charter reimbursement neither fully funds reimbursement nor equitably treats sending districts.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the Agawam School Committee opposes any lift to the cap on Charter Schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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William P. Sapelli, Superintendent

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Date

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION**

\_\_\_\_\_ yea \_\_\_\_\_ nay \_\_\_\_\_ absent \_\_\_\_\_ abstention

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

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Richard A. Cohen, Mayor/Chairperson Agawam School Committee