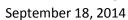
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National Organization Supports Stronger Standards but No Moratorium

Better Oversight Is Needed But Opposes Halt On New Charter Schools

With this morning's <u>announcement</u> by Democratic state legislators in Michigan proposing a moratorium on new charter schools in the state, <u>Greg Richmond</u>, President and CEO of the <u>National Association of Charter School Authorizers</u> (NACSA) released the following statement:

"The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) opposes proposed legislation to establish a moratorium on new charter schools in Michigan.

We agree that there are problems to be fixed. Indeed, we have taken a strong public position that more effective oversight is needed and that charter authorizers should be held accountable for the quality of their schools. This has not been popular with some authorizers and advocates.

But we also know that there are still many Michigan children who lack the opportunity to attend a good school. This is not an "either/or" situation. Michigan should both promote diligent, transparent oversight and create more good schools for children. Michigan children need better schools and Michigan taxpayers need those schools to be well run. Let's do both, not one or the other.

We know that many Michigan charter schools are excellent. We also know that no school is good simply because it's called a "charter school." We must always push ourselves to improve and do better for children – and keep providing them with new, high-quality school options."

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is committed to advancing excellence and accountability in the charter school sector and to increasing the number of high-quality charter schools across the nation. To accomplish this mission, NACSA works to improve the policies and practices of authorizers—the organizations designated to approve, monitor, renew, and, if necessary, close charter schools. NACSA provides training, consulting and policy guidance to authorizers. It also advocates for laws and policies that raise the bar for excellence among authorizers and the schools they charter. Visit www.qualitycharters.org