

A4PEP Honors Rep. Lorena Garcia

Advocates for Public Education Policy (A4PEP) presented its Legislator of the Year Award on June 30, 2024, to State Representative Lorena Garcia in honor of her work to pass HB24-1363, Charter School Accountability, and her continued commitment to fighting for equitable public education.

A4PEP praised Rep. Garcia’s “courageous work to ensure that charter schools abide by the same rules as traditional public schools.” The bill faced “massive lobbying that spread misinformation and fear-mongering” among charter school parents and Rep. Garcia's colleagues. Garcia worked with A4PEP and a few other legislators to “lead the charge for charter school accountability regarding the use of taxpayer dollars.”

Garcia’s efforts to pass the bill sparked conversations at the state level, particularly the State Board of Education, to examine automatic waivers, one of which allows charter schools to hire teachers without license. In addition, the bill heightened awareness about the lack of financial transparency in charter schools.

A4PEP continues to educate the public and legislators about public education issues and policies in-depth, especially the historical modifications of charter school law towards privatization.

