

## **RESOLUTION on Colorado Charter School Accountability and Transparency**

***Whereas,***

- The original intent of the 1993 charter school law was to give schools the flexibility needed to try new, innovative approaches to instruction to meet the needs of at-risk children. This law has been modified substantially over time through provisions of the law that have been stripped away or amended, resulting in changes in the purpose and function of charter schools.
- The expansion of charter schools has resulted in the loss of local control by district school boards and weakened oversight for accountability to taxpayers, who have the right to know how their tax dollars are being used. Charter schools, having greater flexibility and autonomy, should be subject to more stringent accountability measures requiring full transparency of every part of their program.

***Therefore, A4PEP implores the State Legislature to amend charter school law to:***

- Provide increased transparency about how charter schools use public tax dollars.
- Provide transparency about the laws and policies that charter schools are allowed to waive and ensure that charter schools follow the law regarding transparency about waivers.
- Guarantee that charter schools pay their share of costs for district administration and unreimbursed costs for special education.
- Ensure that members of charter school governing boards and charter school managers have no financial conflicts of interest.
- Ensure that local school boards are the ones that make the final decisions regarding the approvals and renewals of charter schools.
- Provide the public with the same information about educator effectiveness as is provided for traditional public schools.
- Allow local school boards to control the number of charter schools in the district.
- Ensure that the proliferation of charter schools does not create financial constraints on school districts with declining enrollment.
- Ensure that community input from district accountability committees is provided for all charter renewals.