

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LIFTING OF THE STATE CHARTER CAP

WHEREAS: Funding for Commonwealth charter schools comes from funds that would have otherwise gone to local school districts; AND

WHEREAS: There is no oversight by local elected officials of these local funds in the operation of Commonwealth charter schools; AND

WHEREAS: Commonwealth charter schools educate fewer students with disabilities than local school districts; AND

WHEREAS: The student population with disabilities that charter schools do educate is significantly different from the student population with disabilities educated by district schools, with district schools educating students in all disability categories and all students with the severest special needs; AND

WHEREAS: Commonwealth charter schools educate fewer English language learners than district schools; AND

WHEREAS: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Auditor Suzanne Bump has found that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's waitlist information for charter schools is inflated and "not accurate";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Somerville School Committee believes local School Committee approval should be required for the opening of any school funded by local public tax dollars; AND

FURTHER: that the Somerville School Committee opposes the lift of any cap on charter schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; AND

THAT: a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor and the Somerville state and local legislative delegations and otherwise widely distributed.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: that the Somerville School Committee urges residents to vote 'No' on Question 2 in the 2016 General Election.

VOTED: Unanimous support

DATE: May 2, 2016

BY THE: Somerville School Committee

AMENDED: October 24, 2016