

## Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

**WHEREAS**, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and

**WHEREAS**, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Beverly Public School District is losing \$98,184 to Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the state are losing more than \$408 million this year alone — a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and

**WHEREAS**, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and

**WHEREAS**, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive out students they don't want to serve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth charter school system is creating separate and unequal opportunities for success; and

**WHEREAS**, lifting the cap on charter schools would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Beverly School Committee opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools.

*For additional information and resources, visit [massteacher.org/charterschools](http://massteacher.org/charterschools).*

  
Kris Silverstein, President  
Beverly School Committee

8/31/16  
Date

  
Steven A. Hiersche, Superintendent  
Beverly Public Schools

Date

August 23, 2016