

Sam Drury
210 East Sterne Blvd.
Littleton, Colorado 80122

February 25, 1993

Senate Education Committee
Colorado State Legislature
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear committee members:

I have been a Colorado resident, taxpayer, and parent for the past 35 years. I have four children with K-12 education in Littleton Public Schools (my youngest is a high-school junior).

Although I am recognized in the Littleton community as a strong supporter of public education, I also am known as a constructive critic of student performance and educational bureaucracy. As an active member of the LPS Board of Education from 1983 to 1989, I became even more convinced of the importance of representative government through locally-elected, accountable public officials.

Last fall I worked very hard in support of **Amendment 6** (education reform/sales tax) to minimize the painful cuts in school funding. I also **opposed Amendment 1** (tax limitation) because it weakens representative government. In addition, I was **against Amendment 7** (vouchers) because I believe that public funds should not be used for private schools.

After finding myself on the "losing" side of the first two ballot issues, I now also have modified some of my thinking with regard to schools of choice. There is increasing evidence of widespread dissatisfaction with some aspects of public education. We **must** develop better ways to link carefully-selected teachers with significantly-involved parents in more-productive environments.

I view charter schools (as proposed in Senate Bill 93-183) as an important element of more-effective approaches to the improvement of student performance. As you know, this proposal requires thoroughly-planned applications with emphasis upon accountability for student performance. There will be close collaboration among teachers and parents, with relative freedom from educational bureaucracy. The semiannual review requirement will assure the prompt detection and correction of initial operational problems.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I gave to the LPS Board of Education members last week in support of charter schools.

Sincerely,

Sam Drury

**Sam Drury
210 East Sterne Blvd.
Littleton, Colorado 80122**

February 16, 1993

Littleton Public Schools Board of Education
5776 South Crocker Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Dear board members:

You may be aware that the Colorado Senate Education Committee is receiving testimony regarding Senate Bill 93-183, which is a bill for an act concerning charter schools. Republican Senator Bill Owens and Democratic Representative Peggy Kerns are the principal sponsors. Other support comes from Governor Roy Romer, the State Board of Education, and the Education Commission of the States. However, a state education coalition (CASB, CASE, CEA, and PTA), which is strongly opposed to this bill in its present form, has proposed many amendments for consideration by the committee. The bill may be changed somewhat, or even die in committee.

However, my optimistic view is that charter schools legislation will be passed this spring. Therefore, there may be opportunity soon for Littleton Public Schools involvement in several ways:

Provide auxiliary-services support to a charter school on a time-and-materials cost basis. Purchase-order agreements for data processing, printing, etc. could cover all LPS expenses (including equipment amortization).

Provide other assistance (including instruction) in well-defined assignments with reimbursement of all costs by purchase orders from the charter school.

Adopt a charter school, which would report to the LPS Board of Education. Perhaps the LPS "magnet school" concept, which you approved but put on hold last year, could be adapted to work as a charter school. I support the concept (carefully-selected staff who are highly motivated for using the best techniques, parents who are significantly involved in a school of their choice, students who have personal learning plans, etc.).

I am enclosing a copy of Senate Bill 93-183 for your information.

Sincerely,

Sam Drury

cc: Cile Chavez