

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS:**

- 1. Before you start, review the comments below and adapt them. If you are commenting on behalf of a group, please include that information. Your comments will have more impact if you customize them to your situation and your feelings about charter schools and accountability. It's OK to delete some of the sample letter text and make your comments short.**

I live in Indiana, where there are 116 charter schools, most of them in urban areas. I fully support the proposed rules to bring transparency and accountability to the Federal Charter Schools Program (CSP). Indianapolis has seen too many historic public schools shuttered due to unregulated charter expansion, aided in part by CSP grants.

While Indiana law does not allow for-profit organizations to apply for or directly hold a charter, this is not the case every state. I believe schools run by for-profit organizations in any state should be ineligible for CSP grants. Charter schools that are run in part or whole to create profit should not benefit from federal expansion or start-up funds.

Experience has shown that spending by for-profit organizations is hidden from public inspection and is not subject to FOIA requests. Taxpayers have a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

Indiana is home to the country's most costly fraud by a virtual charter school. We cannot let misuse of taxpayer money continue.

I fully support the proposed regulation that "the community impact analysis must describe how the plan for the proposed charter school take into account the student demographics of the schools from which students are, or would be, drawn to attend the charter school." I also welcome requiring the applicant to report need based on enrollment patterns as well as the impact on local desegregation efforts.

Including an impact statement will help reviewers make sound decisions regarding which schools should get awards. The impact analysis requirements should include a profile of the students with disabilities and English language learners in the community along with an assurance that the applicant will provide the full range of services that meet the needs of all students. Too often, the students with highest needs are left in public school districts because charter schools lack the capacity to serve them.

The Federal Charter Schools Program has made the situation worse in Indiana. A significant number of Indiana charter schools receiving sub-grants between 2006-2014 either never opened, or opened and then closed. These schools never should have opened at all. If an impact analysis had been available previously, perhaps these situations could have been avoided.

I also fully support priorities one and two. These priorities will help us get back to the original purpose of charter schools—innovative places run by teachers and families in cooperation with our local schools. I do not want my tax dollars to fund new schools that benefit the big EMO and CMO chains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

- 2. Save your comments wherever you usually save documents.**
  
- 3. Log in to the comment website at:**  
**<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/ED-2022-OESE-0006-0001>**
  
- 4. Go back to where you saved your comments and copy them, then paste them into the Comments section.**
  
- 5. When the form asks, “What is your comment about?” scroll down to Charter School or Charter School Organization.**
  
- 6. Fill in the remaining information.**

**Believe it or not, once you finish your comments,  
it takes just a few minutes!**