

MASSACHUSETTS  
**HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL**

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**Council President Chris Anderson's Statement on  
Senate Charter School Legislation**

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The charter school legislation passed by the State Senate earlier today represents a significant step backward for public charter schools in Massachusetts and fails to address the enormous unmet demand for charter school access that so many Massachusetts parents and students continue to seek but find unavailable.

The bill includes a cap lift that is largely illusory for students and parents (particularly in Boston) and contains several provisions that charter school opponents know will damage the ability of existing charter schools to provide opportunities for the students and families who choose these public school options.

The sole positive aspect of the Senate's action today is that it keeps alive the possibility that a meaningful expansion of charter schools might be achieved through legislation. The Council remains hopeful that the House will produce a far different version of charter school legislation and we are committed to work with Speaker DeLeo and House leaders toward that end.

Unfortunately, however, today's action by the Senate reinforces that a direct vote by the people may be the only viable way to expand access to public charter school opportunities for the tens of thousands of students who so desperately want them. If the legislative effort falls short, the Council is more committed than ever to supporting the pending ballot initiative.

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