



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 New York, N.Y. 10025 (212) 539-7602

Website: ThreeParksDems.org **Email:** ThreeParksDems@aol.com

President

District Leader

State Committee

Lorraine Zamora

Cynthia Doty

Lynn Thomas & Daniel Marks Cohen

March 30, 2023

Hon. Cordell Cleare, Room 905
Hon. Danny O'Donnell, Room 712
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248
VIA EMAIL

Re: Please oppose any expansion of charter schools

Dear Senator Cleare and Assembly Member O'Donnell:

As you know, Governor Hochul wants to lift the regional cap on the number of charter schools in New York City, and allow the licenses of charter schools that have closed in the past few years to be reissued. The change would allow for approximately 85 more charter schools across the state.

We urge you to vote against any such increase in the number of charter schools. We urge you instead to advocate for equal access for all to a first-rate public education.

For well over a decade, Three Parks Independent Democrats has supported a moratorium on charter school expansion in New York City; we opposed previous efforts to co-locate charter schools within District 3. This is so because no schools should be run by a profit-making enterprise. In addition:

- charter schools, which under state law are required to be funded by public school districts, often cherry-pick students from a community—

they have no obligation to educate every child, as true public schools must;

- the results of charter schools' general effectiveness to improve the educational outcomes of disadvantaged students has been mixed at best;
- 95 percent of New York City's 1.1 million public school children would continue to be educated in the regular public school system from which valuable resources would be siphoned by charters; and
- forcing public schools to co-locate with charters resulted in public schools' being pushed out and relegated to inferior facilities.

We call on you to vote to (1) maintain the cap on charter schools and to fully fund, properly support, and reduce class sizes in all our regular public schools and (2) allocate the remaining funding for New York City schools required by the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* case.

We cannot afford to be distracted from the obligation to provide our children with a sound basic education by preoccupation with increasing the number of the City's charter schools.

Thank you,

Lorraine Zamora, President
917-348-5136

Copies via email to Council Members Brewer and Abreu