



Taylor Kerr <tkerr@txcharterschools.org>

Fwd: Statement of Impact letter and form from Fort Worth ISD in Regard to Proposed Campus for Ki Charter Academy

1 message

Starlee Coleman <scoleman@txcharterschools.org>
To: Internal Advocacy Team <advocacyteam@txcharterschools.org>

Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 9:19 AM

Here you go!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Starlee Coleman <scoleman@txcharterschools.org>

Date: March 10, 2021 at 6:32:39 PM CST

To: Nicole D Collier <Nicole.Collier@house.texas.gov>, Charlie Geren <Charlie.Geren@house.texas.gov>, Craig Goldman <Craig.Goldman@house.texas.gov>, Matt Krause <Matt.Krause@house.texas.gov>, "Ramon Romero Jr." <Ramon.Romero@house.texas.gov>, Kelly Hancock <Kelly.Hancock@senate.texas.gov>, "Sen. Jane Nelson" <Jane.Nelson@senate.texas.gov>, Beverly Powell <Beverly.Powell@senate.texas.gov>, Commissioner <Commissioner@tea.texas.gov>

Cc: Kent <kent.scribner@fwisd.org>, Karen <karen.molinar@fwisd.org>, Michael <michael.ball@fwisd.org>, ellissboe@gmail.com, "Thompson, Hunter" <Hunter.Thompson@tea.texas.gov>, Jerry Lager <Jerry.Lager@k charter.org>, Tamoria Jones <tjones@txcharterschools.org>, Chris Duke <Chris.Duke@ltgov.texas.gov>, Patrick Philpot_SC <Patrick.Philpot_SC@senate.texas.gov>, daniel.warner@speaker.texas.gov

Subject: Re: Statement of Impact letter and form from Fort Worth ISD in Regard to Proposed Campus for Ki Charter Academy

Senators Hancock, Nelson, Powell, and Representatives Collier, Geren, Goldman, Krause, Romero:

I routinely see copies of disingenuous, unserious letters opposing charter schools. But this letter from Superintendent Scribner at Fort Worth ISD actually took my breath away.

Scribner's letter is opposing a charter school expansion request to serve 60 children who are patients at Hickory Trails Hospital. This is an acute psychiatric hospital for children who have attempted suicide, overdosed, and have other behaviors that are every parent's worst nightmare. They are currently offered no school while at the hospital. Ki Charter specializes in bringing education into settings like this. They have a terrific track record in Texas and are supported by every other superintendent where their schools are located. See the attached letters of support.

I sincerely hope that Scribner's letter was a form letter of opposition sent off without a thought. Because I can't imagine someone actually opposing these children being allowed access to a school.

But, it goes to show you that the opposition to charter schools has become so knee-jerk that Superintendents don't even bother to look at the actual application of the charter that is proposed. How can you take their statements about how their district will be impacted seriously when they don't even read the application? None of these children is in school today, so no district is being paid for their attendance. So, there will be no fiscal impact to any ISD. Scribner's letter flat-out misrepresents the impact to FW ISD. How many additional letters of opposition has he sent where he didn't bother to look at the charter application?

I hope that you'll keep this example in mind the next time a Superintendent calls to talk to you about charter schools. Are you sure you're being given facts?

I have copied Jerry Lager, the founder of Ki Charter here in case you have questions about their incredible work or if you would like to offer to support their expansion into your community. And, as always, please call me directly any time with questions: 602-758-9162.

Thank you,
Starlee Coleman

Starlee Coleman
CEO
Texas Public Charter Schools Association

From: Mattingly, Cissy <cissy.mattingly@fwisd.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:36 PM

To: Charteramendments <Charteramendments@tea.texas.gov>; Info@GregAbbott.com; info@danpatrick.org; Cylynda Caviness <Cylynda.Caviness@ltgov.texas.gov>; commissioner@tea.texas.gov; ellisSBOE@gmail.com; Nicole D Collier <Nicole.Collier@house.texas.gov>; Charlie Geren <Charlie.Geren@house.texas.gov>; Craig Goldman <Craig.Goldman@house.texas.gov>; Matt Krause <Matt.Krause@house.texas.gov>; Ramon Romero Jr. <Ramon.Romero@house.texas.gov>; Kelly Hancock <Kelly.Hancock@senate.texas.gov>; Sen. Jane Nelson <Jane.Nelson@senate.texas.gov>; Beverly Powell <Beverly.Powell@senate.texas.gov>
Cc: Scribner, Kent <kent.scribner@fwisd.org>; Molinar, Karen <karen.molinar@fwisd.org>; Ball, Michael <michael.ball@fwisd.org>

Subject: Statement of Impact letter and form from Fort Worth ISD in Regard to Proposed Campus for Ki Charter Academy

Dear Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Commissioner of Education Morath, members of the State Board of Education, Honorable Representatives, and TEA:

On behalf of Dr. Kent P. Scribner, Superintendent, the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) respectfully asks the Commissioner of Education to deny Ki Charter Academy an expansion amendment for a proposed 60-student 1-12 campus in De Soto, TX. Revenue loss would harm thousands of students in our school district and a new expansion amendment could harm thousands of students in school districts in the Fort Worth area. Our school district already faces difficult financial choices because of pandemic enrollment dips (if there is no hold harmless extension) and higher costs; it is unconscionable at this time to knowingly reduce school district funding further with charter expansions.


Please see the attached letter and form for more information. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this Statement of Impact, we appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kent P. Scribner, Superintendent
Fort Worth Independent School District

Cissy Mattingly, Ed.D.

Coordinator | Business and Finance
Fort Worth Independent School District

817.814.2101  | 817.814.2105  | 817.501.5009  | cissy.mattingly@fwisd.org

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