

FAX TRANSMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE KEITH STALLWORTH

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To: Intergovernmental Affairs Office **Date:** November 19, 1999
The White House
ATTN: Adrienne

Fax #: 1-202-456-6220 **Pages:** 1, including this cover sheet.

From: Barbara A. Hicks *BAH*
Legislative Assistant

Subject: Charter Schools

COMMENTS:

Request for letters of support for Charter Schools from President Clinton, Vice-President Gore and the U.S. Secretary of Education.

The Michigan House of Representatives is in the process of debating expansion of Charter Schools. Representative Keith B. Stallworth would like to receive letters clearly outlining the positions of each of the above. It would be beneficial to have the correspondence on Monday, November 29, 1999. Rep. Stallworth has been championing this issue and is planning a rally on that date. }

I realize this is short notice, but any assistance you can offer in facilitating this request will be greatly appreciated. Thanks! Our fax number is 1-517-373-7186.

The office needs the info from noon tomorrow



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1999

The Honorable Keith Stallworth
State Representative
Michigan House of Representatives
346 Roosevelt Building
Lansing, MI 48910

Dear Representative Stallworth:

Thank you for contacting me about increasing opportunities for public school choice. I am proud of this Administration's continued commitment to offer a world-class education to all our students, and I welcome this opportunity to respond.

I have been a staunch supporter of public education and particularly the charter school movement. Charter schools are innovative public schools started by educators, parents, and communities, open to students of every background or ability, and accountable to the public for student performance and fiscal responsibility. Charter schools also tend to be more nurturing, innovative, and focused on a comprehensive educational philosophy. They are often much more autonomous and less bureaucratic than most schools, and in return for greater flexibility, charter schools must set and meet high standards. Finally, charter schools do not divert taxpayer dollars from the public schools that serve 90 percent of our children, but instead work within the system to promote educational excellence for all children.

These are some of the reasons I encourage states to pass strong charter school laws and urge more communities across the country to give charter schools a chance. Introducing more innovation and competition can make all our public schools better, while maintaining crucial public accountability.

At least 1,700 charter schools have been created under this Administration to serve hundreds of thousands of students in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Recently, the Administration released nearly \$100 million in funding for charter schools all around America. This money will help charter schools with start-up costs, including more well-trained teachers, technology and supplies, and enable classrooms to be constructed that are safe and accessible for all students. In addition, this funding will help charter schools develop accountability systems to ensure they are meeting -- or exceeding -- state standards of quality for education.

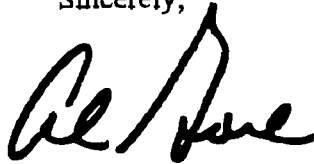
I continue to strongly support public school choice because I believe parents should have more opportunities to choose the public school that their best fits their child's needs. Our first

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priority must be to ensure that our children receive the education they need to succeed in the 21st Century. To do this, our public schools must be as good or better than any in the world, and investing in them is necessary to ensure a brighter future for all.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Gore", with a stylized, cursive script.

Al Gore

AG/rar



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JACK MINORE
MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
49TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
FAMILY AND CIVIL LAW
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND URBAN POLICY
TAX POLICY

December 1, 1999

The Hon. Albert Gore
Vice-President
United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

You are not being well served by supporting Rep. Keith Stallworth's requests for letter in support of charter schools.

You should be aware that the Republican backed proposal before the Michigan House today failed with every Democratic member opposing it! We were joined by a handful of Republicans so that the bill was passed for the day and may come before us again.

I urge you to communicate on this issue through Representative Mike Hanley, our Democratic leader; or Representative Rose Bogardus, the ranking Democratic member of the Education Committee.

Sincerely,

Jack Minore
State Representative
49th District - Flint

JM/kjk

cc: Rep. Michael Hanley
Rep. Rose Bogardus



House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan

ROSE BOGARDUS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
47TH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917
PHONE: (517) 878-0844
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HOO.781-0017

December 2, 1999

The Honorable Albert Gore
Vice President
United States of America
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am writing in regards to your letter addressed to State Representative Keith Stallworth (D-Detroit) dated November 29, 1999. It appears that your position on charter schools is being misrepresented by Representative Stallworth.

As the Minority Vice-Chair of the Housing Standing Committee on Education, I am requesting your assistance in clarifying your position. I understand that you support the concept of charter schools, however, our Republican Governor, John Engler, has created a perversion of the concept.

Under the Republican version of charter schools, there has been very little oversight in the management of the schools, resulting in many instances of improper use of public funds. These instances have been documented in two independent studies conducted by Western Michigan University and Public Sector Consultants with MAXIMUS, Inc. According to these studies, the charter schools in Michigan are overwhelmingly being run by private management companies which have found a way to make a profit by only accepting students who are less costly to educate. The charters accept students to obtain the state aid and send them back to traditional public schools after receiving the state funding. The money remains with the charter schools rather than following the student back to the public school. For example, one school district in Huntington Woods, Michigan, was forced to accept 44 students who were previously in charter schools without receiving state aid for those students. These are just a few of the problems faced by our charter school system.

Now our governor is trying to expand the number of charter schools and remove any control of them by our constitutionally elected state Board of Education. His proposal is opposed by every Democrat in the House of Representatives, except for Representative Stallworth. In fact,

several Republicans are also opposing the Governor's plan.

I encourage you to clarify your position on charter schools as soon as possible, as this proposal is likely to be debated before the Michigan House of Representatives within the next week.

I greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rose Bogardus

ROSE BOGARDUS
State Representative
47th District

RB/jh

cc: Rep. Michael Hanley, Democratic House Leader
Rep. Jack Minore