

## **2R Charter School Expansion Position/Talking Points**

**WEAC's Position:** The Wisconsin education Association Council supports innovation in education, while maintaining local control. District-sponsored charter schools provide a forum for such innovation while honoring the authority of a locally elected school board. WEAC believes:

- Charter schools should be public schools and school employees should be full partners in the design, implementation and governance of charter schools.
- Only local school boards should have the power to create charter schools. Other municipalities, colleges or universities, private or for-profit entities should not.
- Charter school funding should not divert resources from traditional public schools.
- Charter school programs must be different from what is available in mainstream public schools.

### **Talking Points:**

**This is no time to be expanding funding for private education, when \$1 billion is on the chopping block for public schools.**

- And let's face it – with all of the cutbacks to public education – this is no time to be expanding public funding of what is essentially private education. It's illogical to talk about increasing funding for charters while bleeding our existing system dry.
- Our schools are already facing the most extreme cuts ever to funding, nearly \$1 billion. On top of that, for the first time in the state's history school district revenue limits will be reduced from the prior year's level – resulting in an additional loss of \$1.68 billion in allowable revenue authority. This bill would deliver a third financial blow to our local schools, which would be forced to raise local property taxes or cut programs for students to make up the loss.

**This bill would hurt all Wisconsin public schools.**

- The impact of 2R expansions would be felt by all Wisconsin school districts, because these 2R charters get funding first, and that would result in a direct reduction on each school district's general aid payment from the state.
- Last year, the state took \$57.3 million from general school aid to pay for these schools, and left local taxpayers to make up for the lost state aid. That's wrong for Wisconsin.
- Such drastic cuts cannot be absorbed by local school districts and will have a ripple effect in communities across the state as they are already dealing with unprecedented layoffs, program cuts and reductions in standards.

**Expansion of 2R charters leads to further privatization of public education.**

- As has been the experience in other states, private companies will run these schools, and that goes against Wisconsin's Constitution and tradition of high-quality public education.
- This is another example of elected leaders playing politics with our schools – this will cripple our strong public school system in order to advance corporate motives.