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Good evening,

My name is Tom Coble, I was born and raised in Bridgeport. I am a product of the Bridgeport Public Schools and I have a grandson that currently attends a Bridgeport Public School.

The NAACP approved a resolution against Charter Schools and in support of our true public schools in 2010. The resolution cites a study by the Center for Research in Educational Outcomes of charter schools in 15 states and D.C. that confirmed that only 17% of charter school students in a study outperformed their peers, while 46% performed no better and 37% performed worse.

Just recently, the ACLU filed a lawsuit in Delaware against charter schools because they promote segregation. Well I am here to tell you that the exact same problem exists with the state charter schools located in Bridgeport.

I compared our magnet schools to the charter schools because neither are neighborhood schools and both have the ability to serve students from either very large catchment areas or the entire city as well as drawing students from surrounding communities. Both also require admission by lottery.

Park City Prep is 98.1% minority, New Beginnings Charter School is 98.1% minority Achievement First is 99.3% minority, and Bridge Academy is 99.6% minority. Our four magnet schools are between 66%-89.5% minority. The entire Bridgeport School District is 91.6% minority.

The last time I checked, segregation is illegal and these charter schools are not addressing segregation, they are promoting it.

Highly compensated pro-charter school advocates that are funded by millionaires, billionaires and Wall Street executives constantly frame the need for charter schools because this is the "civil rights issue of our time." If any legislator believes that Martin Luther King, that gave his life in support of equality and the end to segregation would ever support the re-segregation of our schools, they don't understand the civil rights movement or what Dr. King stood for.

Thurgood Marshall who stood with Dr. King and became the first Black United States Supreme Court Justice, stated in 1974 "**Unless our children begin to learn together, there is little hope that our people will ever learn to live together.**"

As someone actively involved in politics, the Bridgeport community has consistently made it clear they are against privatization, the reform movement, the takeover of our schools, and pro-charter school advocates and their charlatan organizations.

I am in absolute support of this moratorium on charter schools, and Bridgeport is already littered with them. Not only am I asking you to pass this bill, I am also strongly urging you to ensure Dr. Perry's charter school is not funded. We do not want even one more charter school in Bridgeport.

Thank you