Commonwealth charter schools hurt students who attend district public schools. That is why the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance opposes legislation and a ballot question to lift the cap on charter schools, and why MEJA supports bills to place a moratorium on new charter schools and to require greater accountability for existing ones.

**LOST FUNDING**
Charter schools siphon hundreds of millions of dollars a year from public schools. This year alone, Commonwealth charters will divert nearly $420 million from district public schools after reimbursements are taken into account. This means larger class sizes and less enrichment for students in district public schools.

**NO LOCAL CONTROL**
Charter schools are not accountable to their local communities. They are approved by the state, often over the objections of a large majority of local residents — the people who have to pay for them. Local school committees have no authority over these charter schools and no recourse if a charter school’s practices have a negative impact on students who attend the district’s public schools.

**STUDENTS PUSHED OUT**
Charter schools create a two-track system of public schools, described by the national NAACP as “separate and unequal.” Charters typically underserve special needs students, English language learners and economically disadvantaged students. Many use harsh discipline policies to push out the students they don’t want.

**POOR TEACHING AND LEARNING CONDITIONS**
Rather than innovate, most charters focus on test prep and drill. In addition, they have high teacher turnover rates as a result of poor working conditions, long hours and lack of teacher autonomy. This undermines school stability and students’ learning conditions.

MEJA is a coalition of parent, student, educator and social justice organizations committed to engaging communities across the state in support of the public schools our students deserve.