

February 19, 2007

Senator Florence Shapiro,

I understand that you have proposed a bill to close down charter schools for their poor attendance, poor TAKS scores and so forth. I currently attend one of the charter schools you are targeting, and if my school closes I will not return to my previous school.

I chose Erath Excels! Academy because the school offered me help in many of the subjects that I had previously experienced trouble in. The teachers at Erath Excels! Academy would take time out of their own schedule to help a student that is having trouble in their current subject.

If Erath Excels! Academy were to get closed down I would have nowhere to go to get my high school diploma. I would reconsider voting for this bill, because most of the students that are attending Erath Excels Academy would not go back to their old school either.

So, please let us have another year to prove to you that we can improve and bring our scores up to meet accountability standards.

Thank you for your time, and please consider the damage you will cause to the students and the school if you close Erath Excels! Academy.

Sincerely,

Daniel Horn


Senator Florence Shapiro,

I hear and understand that your bill would close certain low-performing charter schools. One of the charter schools you would be closing is Erath Excels! Academy, which is the school I am currently attending.

I chose to go to this school because I heard that it was a great school and also that I could graduate earlier. Because of the condition of me being pregnant, this helps me out tremendously. I don't want to be going to school when my baby is born because it would require me to miss so much time out of school and I would have a large amount of make-up work to do. Also, I chose to come here because many people that I talked to told me it was much easier to learn because of the teaching style.

If my school were to close down after all I have done, and considering the fact I will be having a baby soon, I would probably become a dropout. I have tried and worked harder at this school than any other school I have attended. I now go to school from eight in the morning until five in the afternoon, even though I have the choice of going for only four hours a day. If you are considering closing our school because of certain people doing what they need to do, then look at all the circumstances and reconsider. After all, how is any school ever supposed to improve if you don't offer them the chance? Yes, I know life isn't always fair, but when it comes to closing a school down because certain people can't meet the standards due to circumstances beyond their control, I think all areas are not being considered. I went through a long process just to become a student in this school and made many more arrangements than I ever have. It's costing my fiancé many hours away from work just to come and pick me up and drop me off at the school. I didn't come here, to see this school close down I came here to improve my learning and get a high school diploma. If it wasn't for my friends telling me about this school I would have been a dropout, because I had already quit the public school I was attending. So, think about how many kids would become dropouts if you closed this school? Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Schafer

