

# NO<sub>on</sub> CHARTERS 1240

## Vote “NO” on I-1240.

### We need proven solutions for all children before unproven ideas for just a few

Washington has the 4th most-crowded classrooms in the nation, outdated textbooks and technology, lack of enrichment programs and not enough teachers to give students the individual attention they need. We've cut \$2.5 billion from education in the last three years alone, and now we spend less money per student than Mississippi. Before spending millions on I-1240's charter schools that admit only a tiny fraction of students, with no guarantee of improved performance, let's do what the state Supreme Court told us to do: fund *proven* solutions to *real* problems — so **all** our children can succeed.

#### **Millions on charter schools for a tiny fraction of kids — at the expense of all**

I-1240 diverts millions of tax dollars into an expensive system of privately operated, but publicly funded, charter schools. Most of Washington's children won't have access to these schools, and those who do would have to win a **lottery** to get in. We should be taking care of the schools we have — giving *all* our children a chance to succeed — not taking funding away from them to pay for unfunded, unproven experiments for a lucky few.

#### **Drains \$100 million from existing public schools**

I-1240 doesn't pay for itself — the new charter school bureaucracy alone will cost taxpayers \$3 million. To fund these charter schools, I-1240 diverts money from existing public schools — up to \$100 million a year! — funneling those tax dollars into schools that are unaccountable to local voters.

#### **Forces a discredited idea onto our public education system**

Washington voters have already voted down these discredited charter schools three times — and for good reason: The most extensive study done so far, conducted by Stanford University, shows that only 17 percent of charters perform better than traditional public schools, while twice that many perform at a lower level. I-1240 offers nothing new: as the *Seattle Times* reported, "Initiative 1240 is similar in many ways to a pair of ballot measures that voters previously rejected." (8/28/12)

#### **Lacks real oversight and accountability**

I-1240 authorizes out-of-state, private operators to run these charter schools — unaccountable to local voters. I-1240's new state bureaucracy will be run by political appointees — also unaccountable to local voters — who must have a pro-charter bias just to get on the commission.

#### **The Supreme Court got it right — fund quality education for all our kids**

Last January, in the “McCleary” decision, the state Supreme Court ruled that Washington has failed to adequately fund basic education — its paramount duty in our state constitution. It confirmed what parents, teachers and community leaders have been saying for years: we're not living up to our responsibility to our kids. We must fix our broken education funding system with solutions *proven* to work in the classroom — like reducing class sizes, restoring art, music and enrichment programs, and paying teachers better — so **all** children have a chance to succeed.

**Please join the Washington State PTA, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP and many, many more education and community organizations across the state in voting “NO” on I-1240.**



PeopleForOurPublicSchools.org



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