



STATE OF ARIZONA

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

July 27, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly  
United States Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran  
United States House of Representatives  
324 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert  
United States House of Representatives  
1526 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick  
United States House of Representatives  
309 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ruben Gallego  
United States House of Representatives  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
United States House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Lesko  
United States House of Representatives  
1113 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
United States House of Representatives  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Stanton  
United States House of Representatives  
128 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs  
United States House of Representatives  
1318 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Funding Bill

Dear Members of Arizona's Congressional Delegation,

I am writing to bring your attention to a hugely problematic section of the Fiscal Year 2022  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Funding Bill. Section 314

of this legislation could have catastrophic effects on public charter schools in Arizona and throughout the nation.

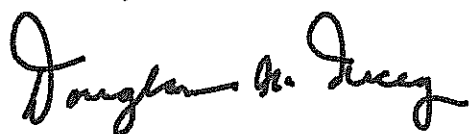
The language states, “none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be awarded to a charter school that contracts with a for-profit entity to operate, oversee or manage the activities of the school.” Both charter schools and district schools alike often enter into contracts with private businesses to meet their operational needs. This includes entities such as transportation service providers, school meal preparation services, technological solutions, classroom management tools, social and emotional health providers, and a wide range of other equally important and justifiable vendors. This language is so vague that merely contracting for any of these services could put all federal funds at risk, including Title 1, disability education, and free and reduced price school meals.

This means that many of Arizona’s more than 230,000 charter school students could be at risk of their school shutting down. They represent over 21% of all public K-12 students in Arizona, the highest percentage in the country. It is unthinkable that support for public charter schools could be put at risk at all, much less as we are emerging from over a year’s worth of academic disruption brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout this disruption, one of the bright spots has been seeing more parents vote with their feet, and choose the educational setting that best suits their child’s unique needs. As one of the early pioneers of the charter school movement in the 1990’s, Arizona has led the way in ensuring that all families have access to educational choice - not just the affluent. The push to create public charter schools in Arizona was done in a bipartisan manner - putting kids and families at the forefront of the policy. We must keep that same spirit alive today, and work together to continue supporting ALL Arizona public schools.

I respectfully request that you oppose Section 314 of this bill, and that we stand up for the kids and families who are counting on us to ensure their classrooms are open for learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona