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**Senate Education Committee
HB-21 Interested Party Testimony
April 11, 2018**

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Sykes, and members of the committee. My name is Michael Uhrin and I am President of K12 School Consultants, LLC. Joining me is John Uhrin, Vice President of K12 School Consultants, LLC. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you to express some concerns we have as consultants working with charter and public schools and with this version of HB-21.

Our knowledge of verifying residences and reviewing documents like stated in HB-21, SF-14, EdChoice and with public schools verifying all their students' addresses is extensive. This is not an easy chore as it takes dedicated staff around the state especially when dealing with E-Schools.

We would like to see the following amendments added to the bill or leave old version.

Line 377 add the words **"and Verify"** after review, this way the public school can verify the charter information if they would choose to do so.

Line 441 add **"or school district"** This was suggested by OEA in their presentation. Public Schools need this as charters do not have staff to do this daily.

Our reasons for these changes are listed below:

Charter schools today have a hard time getting documents from parents when they enroll and sometimes they enroll them without documents. If the public school cannot verify this in ODE system, they need to resolve this by reporting to ODE.

Paper verification is not always accurate as we have seen fake documents, addresses changed on utilities bills, court documents not signed, notarized statements that are questionable, we have seen it all.

Charter schools may not have equipment to process these documents and still send us faxes and phone calls. This may present a financial burden on the charter school. Also, it would mean training staff.

Charter schools may not have the necessary staff to review court and other legal documents. Many public schools have legal staff to review these documents, which now takes place at the public schools when requesting documents from the charter schools. Charter schools have companies that process this data from out of state and do not know the laws.

I could go on but would like to give you some results from the present law:

- 15-16 school year, we found 696 students that had moved or withdrawn without charter knowledge.
- 15-16 end school year, we had 96 students that the charters never responded to us and were paid.
- 16-17 school year, we found 748 students that had moved or withdrawn without charter knowledge.
- 16-17 end school year, we had 19 students that the charters never responded to us and were paid.
- 17-18 school year till April 6, 2018, we found 587 students that have moved or withdrawn.
- 17-18 April 6, 2018, we have 259 students that charters have not responded to us and are being paid.
- 17-18 ECOT we have 20 students that should have not been paid up till their closing.

We would like to see the bill amended as stated above so that both sides have a fair solution to any disputes and allow verification by both parties, if they desire.

Chair Lehner, thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns for HB-21. We would be happy to answer any questions.