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I am writing a testimony for the Senate Education Committee hearing regarding S2787 — legislation establishing a temporary charter school moratorium.

My name is Kara Iafrate and I am public school teacher in Central Falls.

Our school district has been largely impacted by the charter schools in our area. Every year our number of students and funds diverted to charter schools grows. This funding is disproportionately moved since most of the student with multilingual and high special education needs are left within the district. It often leads to a group of students with diverse needs and a lack of funding to support those needs. It has led to a lot of the most essential positions to be cut and more demands on the regular education teachers. We need to cap our funding protocol before it becomes more of a problem. Massachusetts and other states have already taken steps in our neighboring state.

The teachers in our high needs districts are doing the best with what we can! We have limited resources and unique challenges that many other school districts do not face. Our teachers are dedicated to their students and rise to the challenge but it is not ideal. We need to make changes to the system if we want to retain teachers in these already struggling districts. Thank you for your consideration on creating safeguards against the charter movement.