

# LEGISLATIVE ALERT



AFT 420 • COPE | HB 1552 | Jefferson City, MO

## HB 1552 - What is it?

HB 1552 is a piece of legislation proposed by Doug Richey (R) in the Missouri House of Representatives. This legislation would allow local tax dollars that have been voted to St. Louis Public Schools to be distributed to charter schools.

In order to fix a "glitch" in the way that the state funds charter schools HB 1552 would

1. Divert local tax dollars from our locally controlled St. Louis Board of Education to charter schools that have no accountability to our community.
2. Be the Cause of St. Louis Public Schools to loosing approximately \$17,000,000 in local tax revenue.

Ask yourself:

1. Why is a Doug Richey from Kearney, Missouri, a district with **NO** charter schools, involving himself in our the way that we spend our local tax dollars?
2. If Missouri wishes to fund charter schools, why doesn't Missouri fully fund the current education formula?
3. How receptive would our fellow Missourians be with a mandate from the state legislature about how to distribution their local tax dollars?



VP COPE Patrick Charles & COPE CO-Chair Byron Clemens, VP Paraprofessionals Carron Johnson

## A beginning, Not the end...

The partnerships that AFT 420 cultivated and strengthened over the past two years came out in force to support our efforts to stop HB 1552 from becoming law.

- Our Democratic allies on the House budget committee developed and implemented a plan exposing those wishing to see this bill become law for what they truly are. It was a magnificent spectacle!!
- Parents of the students that you serve daily came out to give testimony, showing how truly grateful they are for what you do for their children.
- The school board members that you help get elected testified to the poisonous nature of this bill and the effects it would have on our district.

Doug Richey and his allies in big business will not give up so easily. Those supporting school choice may have been knocked back on their heels, but not knocked out. They will regroup and try again in the Senate.

Help win this fight for quality public education, write emails and make phone calls when asked!!

*"This is not the end. It is not the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."*