



The Nevada Policy Research Institute

For Immediate Release
August 11, 2008

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NPRI applauds end of charter school moratorium

The Nevada Policy Research Institute today applauded the news that the state Board of Education has lifted its moratorium on the approval of new charter schools, allowing an important education program to get back on track after more than eight months on hold.

“As Nevada’s traditional public education system continues to under-perform, it is crucial that we do all we can to encourage the development of charter schools as accessible options for Nevada’s parents and students,” said NPRI President Sharon Rossie. “It is unfortunate that for eight months, those wishing to expand educational choice in Nevada have been prevented from doing so, but we welcome the news that this ill-conceived ban finally has been lifted.”

Charter schools, Rossie said, are a valuable part of Nevada’s education system because the regulatory freedom they enjoy allows them to be more flexible and responsive to the individual needs of students. She also noted that because charter schools typically educate students at a lower cost than do traditional public schools, they ought to be a particularly attractive option now as Nevada wrestles with its large budget deficit.

“Charter schools not only do a better job of providing students with a quality education, but they do so in a more cost-effective way,” said Rossie, who added that Nevada, which has only 22 charter schools, still has a long way to go in terms of expanding educational freedom. “A more robust charter school program will be of great benefit both to students and to Nevada’s fiscal health.”

Noting that several new charter school regulations had also been implemented, Rossie said it is important that those regulations serve simply as useful and clear guidelines for applicants, and not as cover for the Board to arbitrarily reject applications in the future.

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