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## Lift the charter cap



By [William McKenzie](#) / Editorial Columnist  
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The Texas Senate Education Committee spent a good bit of time yesterday afternoon hearing testimony about GOP Sen. [Dan Patrick's](#) bill to lift the limit on the number of charter schools that operate in Texas. Naturally, charter operators spoke in favor of SB 127, while some other groups opposed. The opponents' arguments went from this is a bad time to lift the cap to there aren't enough good charter operators.

The point that kept coming back to me, though, was that the bill wouldn't throw the doors open for any charter operator to come in. The bill would only lift the cap by 10 schools a year. That's hardly a lot.

What's more, the state has handed out almost all the charter licenses it can under the current cap. There is no room left for successful charter operators from other states to come in. We're hurting our own cause by keeping out good charter operators like Green Dot.

I don't think charters are a magical bullet. For that matter, I don't think there are any magical bullets in education. But I do think well-run charters can get kids, especially poor kids, ready for college and/or a good-paying job.

Lift the cap.

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