



To: All Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly
From: Susan Carty, President, Pennsylvania League of Women Voters
Date: June 28, 2015
RE: Pennsylvania League of Women Voters Opposes Senate Bill 6

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters supports equal access to quality public education to be achieved by participation of government and citizens at all levels and by adequate financing based on an equitable and flexible tax system. **We commend the work of the Basic Education Funding Commission in recognizing the impact of socio-economic factors on a school's ability to provide equal access to quality education and cannot support the provisions of Senate Bill 6 until that funding formula is not only implemented but assessed for its effectiveness.**

In addition, we believe legislation governing the privatization of public education and creation of charter schools should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner
- A reasonable feasibility study and evaluation
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the charter school
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the school board and the PA Department of Education

We do not believe the formation of or governance under an Achievement School District meets the above requirements. Nor do we find the provision for Community Advisory Boards adequately meets the need for community input and oversight.

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters believes all schools must be given the opportunity to achieve with adequate and realistic funding based on the needs of their community. Thus, we respectfully request implementation and assessment of Pennsylvania's new funding formula before contemplating the passage of legislation such as Senate Bill 6.