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SENATE APPROVES “PHANTOM” CHARTER CAP LIFT

*(Statement By Marc Kenen, Executive Director,
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BOSTON – April 7, 2016 – The Senate today approved a phantom cap lift that holds out a false hope for families across the Commonwealth. In reality, it is a carefully crafted moratorium on public charter schools that will prevent tens of thousands of children from having fair and equal access to high quality public schools. It also endangers existing charter schools by placing unrealistic impediments to their continued operation, and automatic trigger mechanisms to shut them down.

The cap lift authorized by the bill is contingent on \$1.4 billion in new education funding and would largely be erased in low-performing districts like Boston by a separate provision allowing districts to count some of their own schools against the charter cap. In addition, local school committees, which have historically opposed charter schools, would have new powers to block new charters.

The charter community stood ready to work with the Legislature on a bill that would improve district schools and increase the number of charters. But, this bill is a not a serious attempt to expand educational opportunities.

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