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Letter to the Editor
The Blade
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Attention Letter to the Editor:

The Northwest Ohio Charter School Coalition, a group representing the issues confronting some 30 Toledo-area charter schools and over 8,000 students, disagrees with Ms. Sue Taylor's letter to The Blade, published on October 9, 2009 that charter schools have an unfair advantage.

In the Spring 2009, local charter schools made a decision to form a coalition to fight and protect our "unfair advantage." The various teachers' unions in Ohio, along with Gov. Ted Strickland, tried to cut charter school funding by 20-percent and e-school funding by 70-percent. This budget-cutting battle is far from over for the charter schools.

Additionally, state funding for charter schools is not equal to that of Ohio's public schools. We do not receive local property tax revenue. Also, if a student transfers into a charter school, local school districts have 60-days to report the transfer and during that time the charter school receives no revenue to assist in the funding the student's education.

Ms. Taylor raised concerns about accountability and oversight. A charter school can be forced to close after three years of academic emergency. How many public schools have sat in academic emergency for years and still are allowed to operate?

We agree with her closing statement that "public schools, including charters, can succeed only if they are financially and academically sound and if teachers are given the resources and tools to do their job."

This is why we have formed the NWOCS. We will work to share information among our local charter schools on everything from academics, to finances, to how we can best assist our teachers, students and families.

Finally, Ms. Taylor says charter schools operate in a "cavalier way." Charter schools do not operate in a cavalier way. We are subject to the same laws, zoning or otherwise, that public schools abide by.

Finally she says her letter has nothing to do with teachers unions. Unfortunately it has everything to do with

teachers unions. This is just another example of their refusal to accept a charter school's right to exist.

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