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DANIEL O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
69th Assembly District

February 11, 2018

Joseph W. Belluck
Chair, Charter Schools Committee
SUNY Charter Schools Institute
353 Broadway
Albany NY, 12246

Re: Request for a moratorium on new charter schools in New York City Community School District 3

Mr. Belluck,

I am writing to request a moratorium on approving new charter schools for New York City Community School District 3. District 3, which includes 32 schools across the Upper West Side and Harlem, is already saturated with 11 charter schools. The recent application for a charter middle school by KIPP has left parents across the district worried that the potential further encroachment of new charter schools will threaten the sustainability of our local public schools while we are making historic progress in integrating and improving them.

Although District 3 has one of the most racially and economically diverse student bodies in New York City, most of our schools have largely remained segregated. Last year, the Department of Education launched a plan with the support of the parent advocates across the district to increase diversity in the district by requiring all middle schools to accept at least 25 percent of students from low-income families with lower academic performance. This plan will go a long way in ensuring that our middle schools are accessible to all students, no matter what their family's income is, which block they live on, or how well they score on a state test in elementary school.

I am worried that approving any new charter middle schools in the district will only serve to make the diversity plan difficult to implement and track. Further, KIPP's plan to enroll students beginning in the fifth grade will make the application process even more challenging for families who are already adjusting to the new admissions changes under the Diversity Plan. I urge you to listen to the parents in our district and establish a moratorium on approving any new charter schools in District 3.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell