



August 5, 2020

To: The Honorable Governor James C. Justice and State School Board President Miller Hall

Subject: Six-Month Deadline Extension Request for Inaugural Charter School Applications

Dear Governor Justice and Board President Hall:

In recognition of the unprecedented challenges facing every American caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the undersigned organizations respectfully request a six-month extension beyond the August 31, 2020 deadline for West Virginia's inaugural charter school applications.

Every facet of society has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and, thus far, West Virginia has taken significant steps to mitigate the pandemic's impact, including the waiving of healthcare and business regulations, extensions for tax-filings, and the delay of the 2020-2021 school year.

With these necessary actions as precedent, the extension of the charter school application deadline is necessary and proper, particularly with the recognition that this will be West Virginia's first year receiving and reviewing such applications.

We believe the extension is warranted not only for any potential charter school applicants who may have experienced significant disruptions in the planning process due to COVID-19 but also for families and children who may choose a charter school option for their education.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Garrett Ballengee

Executive Director
The Cardinal Institute for West Virginia Policy

Jason Huffman

West Virginia State Director
Americans for Prosperity