



Bob Ferguson
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June 17, 2016

Paul J. Lawrence
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1191 2nd Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98101-3404

**Re: Request to Investigate and Institute Legal Proceedings to Invalidate ESSSB 6194
Regarding Charter Schools**

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

I write in response to your letter of May 27, 2016. You wrote on behalf of a group of Washington taxpayers and organizations with taxpayer members to request that our office investigate and institute legal proceedings to invalidate Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6194 regarding charter schools, which the Legislature enacted in the 2016 legislative session.

Statutes enacted by the Legislature are entitled to a presumption of constitutionality. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the role of this office is to defend duly enacted Washington laws. With that context in mind, I have thoroughly reviewed your letter and the legal theories you advance, and I find inadequate basis to deviate from our ordinary role and institute the proceedings that you request. We therefore respectfully decline to do so.

To the extent your request is made as a prerequisite to asserting taxpayer standing, please understand that this letter expresses no view as to whether the requirements for taxpayer standing would be met.

Sincerely,

NOAH G. PURCELL
Solicitor General