Unbelievable, incredible, beyond belief--Ohio receiving \$105 million for charter school expansion.

The under-regulated, largely unmonitored, mostly low-performing, historically fraud-ridden charter industry fared greatly in the fiscal years 2026/2027 state budget and now is being enriched with \$105 million from the feds.

Ohio's charter school industry is being financially rewarded, notwithstanding with a few exceptions, the dreadful record of fraud and low performance.

So, why do governors and legislatures permit the continuation of and augmentation of this enterprise? Of course, the anti-public education lobby with a boatload of campaign cash and complicitous state and federal officials are factors in this question.

The September 26, <u>Columbus Dispatch</u> coverage enlightened readers as to the source of the problem. The September 24 announcement of the \$105 million money-down-the-drain boondoggle. US Secretary of Education, with the Ohio Governor in tow, was at the Statehouse. Oops, correction: it was at the hub of the anti-public school mecca—Center for Christian Virtue facilities.

In addition to announcing the \$105 million waste project, the US Secretary of Education touted the \$1700 tax credit option which allows a dollar-for-dollar reduction in federal taxes, not to exceed \$1700, to those who contribute to a scholarship granting organization (SGO). Private schools will benefit richly with this atrocious program.

The US Secretary referring to a "backslide in NAEP scores, school choice is our way out of this slump." The Secretary must not realize that, in general, student performance in voucher schools and charters is lower than the school district of residence of the public school.

It is past time for Ohioans to rally behind the EdChoice voucher litigation and thus the public common school.