

**The ECOT MAN Bill Lager is back in the news. Once again, he is attempting to keep the state from freezing his assets**

Bill Lager's ascendancy from bankruptcy to millionaire—rags to riches—was taken to court for theft of taxpayer money. He stole hundreds of millions from Ohio taxpayers while serving up grossly inferior charter school education. He claimed thousands and thousands of students for payment for several years that he did not serve. The state documented a \$60 million theft for just one year. No doubt there was a similar amount of theft each year during the previous 15 years that his charter school student enrollment was not audited. How could this happen when the State Department of Education, the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Auditor, the Attorney General and the various General assemblies were supposed to be protecting the interests of taxpayers? . Lager was a generous contributor to charter school friendly legislators. In one case at ECOT graduation ceremony, an ECOT representative stated this about a legislator being rewarded an honorary diploma; "there would be no ECOT without this legislator." Wow! A legislator being responsible for preserving a charter school that bilked taxpayers out of 100's of millions of dollars. This is quite a legacy for a career politician who is still on the public dole.

The charter school industry has never been appropriately regulated; hence it has a sordid record of graft and corruption. ECOT is only one example.

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