**What to Make of Charter Schools?**

**Policy Memo 2**

**Due 11/2**

As part of the reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act—ESSA), which took effect in 2017-18, Congress continued its support for new charter schools by increasing funding by about 25 percent. As part of the reauthorization Congress also reduced federal accountability for school performance, leaving that and most other aspects of regulating charter schools primarily to states. ESSA has now expired, and while Congress has not taken up a reauthorization of the ESEA, it may do so after the 2024 election. Senator Kaine, VA, is interested to better understand the evidence surrounding charter schools and reaches out to you, his legislative assistant, for a briefing memo.

**Briefing Memo Assignment**: Based on the class assigned readings and class discussions, write Senator Kaine a briefing memo of no more than 750 words where you address the following issues. Differentiate where the evidence is strong and where it is weak.

1. Briefly summarize the major ways through which charter schools could increase achievement for charter and traditional public school students. Also, briefly describe the possible unintended consequences that may accompany charter schools.
2. Assess the evidence that charter schools can outperform traditional public schools. What should the Senator make of this evidence?
3. Who are the key 2-3 stakeholders for and against charter schools? What are the primary arguments they raise and how do these arguments accord with the evidence?
4. Based on the evidence and the politics of charter schools, should Senator Kaine support continued a provisions in ESSA that support charter school expansion or contraction?

**Post your memos to the Assignment tab on your file on the Canvas site on the Canvas site no later than 9:30am 11/2. Please use a word format (.doc) and name your assignment: your last name, First InitialMemo2.doc For example, Wyckoff,JMemo2**