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**Statement from Harry Lee, President and CEO of the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association on Superior Court Ruling in *Latino Action Network et al v. State of New Jersey*:**

"We are pleased that the Court has affirmed that public charter schools do not contribute to segregation in New Jersey's public school system. However, we know that there is more work to do to ensure all students, regardless of race, ethnicity or zip code, get access to a great public education that best meets their individual needs. As the Plaintiffs acknowledge, public charter schools are uniquely positioned to be a critical part of the solution to increase the number of integrated school options throughout New Jersey.

Unlike the traditional system, public charter schools are permitted to serve children across municipal boundaries, breaking down barriers that differentiate us like our zip code, race, culture and language. Precisely because public charter schools can draw students from a wider geographical area, they have the opportunity to overcome the structural impediment of neighborhood segregation created by municipal boundaries and develop diverse school communities for students, staff and families.

We should be exploring the creation of new charter schools in key districts that are geographically positioned to draw upon a racially and economically diverse student body from surrounding geographies. In doing so, New Jersey can offer thousands of students new opportunities to attend intentionally diverse schools now, without the delay of enacting new legislation and establishing new cross-border funding models.

The public charter school community stands ready to work with the State and the Plaintiffs to increase the number of intentionally diverse public schools in the Garden State."

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**About the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA)**

The New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA) is the non-profit membership association that represents the state's charter school community and, by extension, charter school students and their parents. There are currently 85 public charter schools in New Jersey serving more than 60,000 students. We are committed to advancing quality public education for New Jersey's children through the cultivation of excellent public charter schools. The Association seeks to influence legislative and policy environments, leverage collective advocacy, and provide resources to support our members in developing and operating high quality, public charter schools.