

Action Alert



April 29, 2011



Press for Accountability

Ask Lawmakers to Pass CTA/UTLA Charter School Measure

Your help is urgently needed to secure the approval by the Assembly Education Committee of CTA/UTLA-sponsored AB 1172.

The CTA-sponsored bill is slated for a hearing on Wednesday, May 4.

The measure is designed to make the operators of charter schools fully accountable for the education provided to students and for the use of scarce education dollars.

At the same time, AB 1172, by Assembly Member Tony Mendoza (D-Los Angeles), would recognize the state of fiscal emergency schools are facing and allow local districts to use “financial hardship” as one reason to deny a charter petition.

Background:

AB 1172 aims to enhance the Charter Schools Act of 1992 in three important ways. AB 1172 will

1. Bring the Act more in line with the legislature’s original intent in passing the original charter school authorization.
2. Allow a school district to deny a charter petition on the basis that opening the charter would create a financial hardship.
3. Increase charter schools’ financial transparency and academic accountability.

Among its provisions, the bill would allow only locally elected school boards to create new charters.

The exception would be charter schools opened to serve students whose direct education and related services are the responsibility of the county office of education.

Key Points:

- Reports and investigations have raised serious concerns about charter schools.
- Some charter operators have sidestepped full accountability and have not been transparent in their use of resources. They have used loopholes to bypass locally elected school boards, worsening the situation.
- AB 1172 increases financial transparency and academic accountability. It limits the power to approve charter petitions to those with the capacity to oversee the charters effectively – locally elected school boards.
- AB 1172 also urges the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office to report on best practices at charters so these can be replicated in other schools.

Here’s what you can do to help!

Contact Assembly Education Committee members at their district and Capitol offices.

Urge them to approve CTA-sponsored AB 1172 (Mendoza)

Then close the loop by e-mailing lfeldman@cta.org to let us know:

1) Who did you meet with or reach by phone or e-mail?

2) What was the response? Will the lawmaker vote for AB 1172?

For more information, contact Legislative Advocate Seth Bramble or GR Communications Consultant Len Feldman at 916.325.1500.

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Urge Assembly Education to Approve AB 1172 (Mendoza)

Member	District	Party	Room	Phone	Fax	District Phone	District Fax
Ammiano, Tom	13	D	4005	916 319 2013	916 319 2113	415 557 3013	415 557 3015
Brownley, Julia (Chair)	41	D	2163	916 319 2041	916 319 2141	818 596 4141 310 450 0041 805 644 4141	310 450 6090
Buchanan, Joan	15	D	2148	916 319 2015	916 319 2115	925 328 1515	925 328 1514
Butler, Betsy	53	D	3132	916 319 2053	916 319 2153	310 615 3515	310 615 3520
Carter, Wilmer Amina	62	D	2136	916 319 2062	916 319 2162	909 820 5008	909 820 5098
Eng, Mike	49	D	4016	916 319 2049	916 319 2149	626 382 0049	626 382 0048
Gorell, Jeff	37	R	4208	916 319 2037	916 319 2137	805 230 9167	805 230 9183
Halderman, Linda	29	R	4009	916 319 2029	916 319 2129	559 446 2029	559 446 2028
Norby, Chris (Vice Chair)	72	R	4116	916 319 2072	916 319 2172	714 526 7272	714 526 7278
Wagner, Don	70	R	4153	916 319 2070	916 319 2170	949 863 7070	949 863 9337
Williams, Das	35	D	6011	916 319 2035	916 319 2135	805 564 1649	805 564 1651