



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students



*A Union of Educators &
Classified Professionals*



**IN THE PUBLIC
INTEREST**

**California State
PTA®**
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June 28, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate pro Tempore, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Connie Leyva
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Charter School Renewals

Dear Governor Newsom, Honorable Senators, and Assembly Members:

The organizations signed onto this letter write to express opposition to a provision included in the proposed education omnibus trailer bill which would automatically extend most charter petition terms for two years. We believe proposed Education Code Section 47607.4 undermines the purpose and spirit of Assembly Bill (AB) 1505 that was carefully crafted less than two years ago.

State law, as amended by AB 1505, describes the process by which school districts review renewal petitions for charter schools. While measures of academic progress are a significant

metric in the renewal process, it is not the sole criterion for determining whether a charter petition should be renewed. In fact, AB 1505 explicitly established conditions that allow for non-renewal and override academic performance. Education Code Section 47607(e) states:

Notwithstanding subdivision (c) and subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 47607.2, the chartering authority may deny renewal of a charter school upon a finding that the school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors, or is not serving all pupils who wish to attend, as documented pursuant to subdivision (d).

While we understand the policy rationale for accommodating the lack of appropriate academic performance data because of the suspension of statewide assessments in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, we believe that the proposed trailer bill language oversteps this aim by also taking away the established ability of charter authorizers to hold charter schools accountable for fiscal and governance responsibilities and to ensure that charter schools are serving all students that wish to attend the school. We believe an approach that recognizes the absence of assessment data while retaining the authority of charter authorizers to consider non-renewals under Education Code Section 47067(e) is consistent with the compromises that were codified via AB 1505.

We urge you to reconsider the approach for charter renewals proposed in Education Code Section 47607.4 of the trailer bill, and we hope to work with you to craft alternate language that is line with the renewal process that currently exists in statute.

Respectfully,



California Federation of Teachers
Tristan Brown, Legislative Director



California School Boards Association
Carlos Machado, Legislative Advocate



California State PTA
Carol Kocivar, Education Advocate



California Teachers Association
Seth Brown, Legislative Advocate



In the Public Interest
Clare Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor



Oakland Unified School District
Shanthi Gonzales, Board President



Oakland Unified School District
Benjamin "Sam" Davis, Board Vice President

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Mike Hutchinson, Board Director

cc: Keely Bosler, Department of Finance
Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
Jessica Holmes, Department of Finance
Brooks Allen, State Board of Education
Megan Baier, Office of Senate pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Misty Feusahrens, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Elisa Wynne, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Erin Gabel, Assembly Budget Committee
Lynn Lorber, Senate Education Committee
Tanya Lieberman, Assembly Education Committee