

April 15, 2015

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
The State Capitol, Room 4166
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1344 (Jones)
POSITION: OPPOSE ~ (as amended on April 6, 2015)

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

The California Teachers Association is opposed to AB 1344 (Jones), which requires school districts to hear charter school zoning waiver requests, and provides a process for a charter school to appeal the denial of a zoning exemption at the county office of education, and ultimately at the state board of education.

This proposal decreases the authority and effectiveness of local school boards, and runs counter to efforts around local control. We rely on our elected officials to make decisions for the community after research and a lot of listening. We believe democratically elected school boards should make the decisions regarding all charter schools within the boundaries of the school district. Additionally, appeals regarding the decisions made by the local school district should be only for due process reasons.

Student learning environments and the safety of our children may be compromised through attempts to waive zoning requirements at public charter schools. For these reasons we ask for your "NO" vote when AB 1344 (Jones) is heard in the Assembly Education Committee on April 22, 2015.

Sincerely,



Seth Bramble
Legislative Advocate

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C: Assemblymember Jones