



ACTION ALERT

SUPPORT AB 1741 (COTO) CHARTER SCHOOLS AS AMENDED APRIL 26, 2010

We need your help and support now!! Do you want to make sure Charter Schools provide an appropriate and quality education to students who are English learners!?!

The fate of AB 1741 (Coto) Charter Schools will be determined next week, June 23, 2010, in the Senate Education Committee. Letters must be sent to the Education Committee asking them to vote “YES” on AB 1741 (Coto).

Below is a Sample Letter of Support that can be used for this purpose. Please make the letter as much yours as possible. Personalize it.

If your support letter is on behalf of an organization, your letter must be forwarded no later than Thursday, June 17, 2010, 4 pm. If you are sending a letter as an individual your letter can be forwarded no later than Monday, June 21, 2010. Please send your letters NOW either by email or fax, to:

Senator Gloria Romero, Chairperson
Fax: 916-445-0845
Email: senator.romero@sen.ca.gov

Senator Bob Huff, Vice Chair
Fax: 916-324-0922
Email: senator.huff@ca.gov

Beth Graybill, Principal Consultant to the Senate Education Committee
Fax: 916-445-7799
Email: beth.graybill@sen.ca.gov

Assembly Member Joe Coto
Fax: 916- 319-2123
Email: assemblymember.coto@assembly.ca.gov

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Senator Romero & Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Re: Support for AB 1741 (Coto) Charter Schools, As amended April 26, 2010

I respectfully request your support and “yes” vote on AB 1741 (Coto) Charter Schools, as amended April 26, 2010

Ch. 2, Statutes of 2009, enacted last year requires California’s “persistently low achieving schools” to choose one of four intervention models. One of those four intervention models is converting to a charter school. Some policymakers have proposed that the expansion of charter schools will be the key to narrowing the English learner achievement gap. However, little longitudinal data is maintained about the success of students who are English learners in charter schools, especially charter schools established as a result of conversion from a low achieving public school.

Therefore it is critical that Charter schools, with at least a 15% English learner enrollment, demonstrate **in their program design** that:

- Enrolled English learners at the different English proficiency levels are reflective of the English learner population in traditional public schools
- Language and academic needs of all English learner students (and not just those who are upper levels of English proficiency) are addressed
- Administrators and teachers are fully qualified to be teachers of all English learner students including the teaching of English and content instruction
- An appropriate and aggressive outreach program is a significant element of their program and accessible to parents of potential English learners in their home language and that the outreach programs assist interested parents in negotiating the charter school process and
- Programs and staffing are designed to enable non-English speaking parents to participate fully as partners in their children’s education.

AB 1741 (Coto) would ensure that charter schools, including charter schools seeking renewal, are prepared to provide an appropriate and quality education to students who are English learners. This assurance is necessary in light of the fact that a majority of students enrolled in “persistently low achieving schools” will be students who are English learners.

Please vote “yes” on AB 1741 (Coto) Charter Schools.

Sincerely,

Name

Address (city and zip code)