



March 24, 1992

The Honorable Gary Hart  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4074  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SB 1448: SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Copies to all Members of the  
Senate Education Committee

Dear Senator Hart:

The California School Boards Association has reviewed your Senate Bill 1448 and has taken a Support If Amended position. SB 1448 would establish a charter school structure within the public education system.

The following issues are of concern to us relative to your measure:

1. We believe that the appeal process to the State Board of Education is unnecessary at this time. We would suggest that the SPI be required to report to the Legislature two years after implementation of the bill regarding the number of school districts, by name and with the reasons documented, that opted to deny a charter petition. In this way, the option to establish charter schools rests with the local communities. If the report from the SPI shows that the process outlined in the bill hasn't been effective in reaching the 100 sites per year, the Legislature may take further action. By the same token, we believe that there will be no problem in reaching the 100 districts per year. In addition, the oversight of the charter school by the granting authority (which in your bill could be the State Board of Education/SPI) takes accountability out of the hands of the district board for that school site. This, too is troublesome to us.
2. The bill does not address the issue of categorical/special education funding.
3. The bill does not address the issue of transportation liability.
4. The bill does not address the rights of parents to have their children attend a "regular" neighborhood school in the event their neighborhood school becomes a charter school over their objections.
5. The bill isn't tough enough on charter schools' fiscal or programmatic accountability. Rather than having revocation of charter tied to meeting "generally accepted accounting standards," revocation should be tied to proof of fiscal mismanagement. A school could follow accounting standards and still be fiscally irresponsible. In addition, whenever we "experiment" with children's lives, there must be some level

*Governmental  
Relations*

California  
School  
Boards  
Association

(916) 371-4691  
Fax (916) 371-3407

3100 Beacon Blvd.  
P.O. Box 1660  
West Sacramento  
CA 95691

THE HONORABLE GARY HART

March 24, 1992

Page Two

of programmatic accountability. The authority must exist to terminate certain programs if the fiscal and programmatic objectives and goals are not being met. There should be repercussions of not meeting those goals since there are no process standards in place.

6. The bill does not address the availability of facilities.
7. We believe that the bill must maintain its position of doing away with collective bargaining at the site. If this is to be a true experiment in restructuring, this issue is critical. We could not support AB 1448 if the bill changed from its current position on this issue.
8. We would suggest that you consider the idea of allowing "charter districts," as well. Perhaps set a limit of 50 districts per year. This would allow even greater opportunities for restructuring.
9. We would suggest that, in addition to teachers, others be enabled to petition for the creation of a charter school. Perhaps parents, classified employees, administrators and school board members.

We appreciate the efforts of yourself and your staff in exploring ways to improve SB 1448 and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Kevin R. Gordon  
Director  
Office of Governmental Relations

KRG:bcl