

SB 1448



# State of California

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

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MAUREEN DIMARCO  
SECRETARY OF  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

August 4, 1992

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Ans'd.....

The Honorable Gary Hart  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4074  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Hart:

We have reviewed SB 1448, as amended July 10, 1992, and have taken a position of OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED on this legislation.

SB 1448 sets up a procedure for the establishment of "charter schools," an experimental educational program, limiting the number of charter schools to 100 (statewide). These schools would receive public funding, but would not be subject to the laws generally governing school districts. We believe that this is an approach worth trying in the effort to reform education and make the programs more responsive to the needs of the students..

However, we think it is essential that the decision to charter an "independent" public school be a local decision. The bill should be AMENDED to delete the appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) and the State Board of Education that is permitted when a local governing board denies a charter petition. The petitioners would still have recourse to local governing board elections if they wish to attempt to overturn a denial. The proposed appeal would remove the establishment of charter schools, their oversight, and the revocation of charters from the control of the locally elected officials. In essence, we believe that the appeal sets up the potential for a statewide group of charter schools operating under the auspices of the SPI and the State Board, without any accountability to the local community and taxpayers. Accordingly, we recommend the following amendments:

- (a) On page 6, line 15, after "Education.", delete the rest of the line. On page 6, delete lines 16 to 20, inclusive.
- (b) On page 6, line 39, delete "or the State Department of Education".

If these amendments were to be adopted, our position on SB 1448 would change to Neutral. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 323-0611 if you would care to discuss this legislation or have recently included amendments which would address our concerns.

Sincerely,

MAUREEN DIMARCO  
Secretary of Child Development  
and Education

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