



**California  
Teachers  
Association**

GOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS  
DIVISION

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June 13, 1994

The Honorable Delaine Eastin  
Chairwoman, Assembly Education Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3003  
Sacramento, California 95814

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1264 (Hart)**  
**POSITION: OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Eastin:

This is to inform you that the California Teachers Association has voted to **oppose** SB 1264 which eliminates existing caps on the number of charter schools. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on Wednesday, June 22.

We note that the oldest existing charter schools have been operating for approximately one year, far too little a time frame for empirical data to be gathered on their effectiveness. Also, the original legislation establishing charter schools requires that a study be conducted to determine if the charter schools concept actually results in enhanced educational opportunity. As a result of that study recommendations regarding the future of this concept are to be made.

CTA does not oppose the concept of expanding the number of charter schools if such an expansion is found to be educationally desirable. However, a total elimination of maximum permitted numbers without benefit of data substantiating such a move should not be authorized.

Charter schools were presented to the Legislature and the public as an "experiment." As such, they should be analyzed before decisions are reached about their continuation or abolishment.

**WE URGE A NO VOTE ON SB 1264.**

Sincerely,

Ernest F. Ciarrocchi  
Legislative Advocate

EFC/mt

cc: Senator Gary Hart  
The Office of Senate Floor Analyses





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PLEASE VOTE  
NO  
ON SB 1264

The Assembly Education Committee will soon consider a bill which seeks to remove the current limitation on the number of charter schools which may exist in California as well as the maximum number of charter schools in each district. This bill is SB 1264 (Hart).

- ◆ Current law limits the number of charter schools in California to 100. As of this date, only 54 charters have been issued by the State Department of Education.
- ◆ Of the 54 charter schools, only 43 are currently in operation. The other 11 schools are scheduled to begin operating during the next few months.
- ◆ Only 27 of the currently operating charter schools has been open for even one complete school year.

Section 47616 of the Education Code, which is part of the original Charter Schools Act, requires the State Department of Education "to review the effectiveness of the charter school approach... and report to the legislature accordingly with recommendations to modify, expand or terminate this approach (emphasis ours)."

- ◆ Clearly, the original intent of the charter school law was to create an experiment which needs to be evaluated before it is expanded.

Numerous questions need to be answered by this evaluation. For example:

- ◆ Are charter schools more successful? What data supports the answer to this question?
- ◆ Since they are not required to absorb their share of the costs associated with special education and transportation encroachment, charter schools are better funded than their regular school counterparts. Is this fair?
- ◆ How are the regular schools in a district impacted when charter schools are created?
- ◆ Should charter schools be required to absorb their share of debt service for school construction?
- ◆ Are charter schools more effective than those which protect employee rights but subscribe to site based management principles?

The California Teachers Association urges a NO vote on ANY legislation to remove the limitation on the number of charter schools until the legally required study is conducted and concludes that this experiment should be expanded.

EFC/m  
6/14/94