



*California
Teachers
Association*

GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS
DIVISION

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January 25, 1994

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

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1264
POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Senator Hart:

This is to inform you that, at its January 23 meeting, the CTA State Council of Education voted to **oppose** your SB 1264 which eliminates existing caps on the number of charter schools.

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. In fact, neither the original legislation establishing charter schools nor SB 1264 requires that a study be conducted to determine if the charter schools concept actually results in enhanced educational opportunity.

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 seems to us to be very undesirable.

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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this position further.

Sincerely,

Ernest F. Ciarrocchi
Legislative Advocate

EFC/mt

cc: The Office of Senate Floor Analyses