

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Education  
1020 N Street, Room 159  
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 3, 2019

RE: **AB 1508 as amended March 19, 2019**  
Position: **Oppose**

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the Charter Schools Development Center (CSDC) and our hundreds of charter school members, I write in opposition to AB 1508 (Bonta).

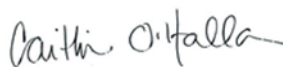
This measure adds additional reasons, including "that a charter school would have a negative financial impact...(on the) school district" to the already long list of reasons that a school district may deny a charter petition.

As amended, AB 1508 contradicts current Education Code which states "...that the establishment of charter schools should be encouraged."

Certainly, this measure doesn't meet the intent of current law, and it doesn't allow for the expansion of high-quality public education. So, if the unspoken goal of this measure is to address the issue of budget shortfalls in traditional urban districts it may be worth reviewing enrollment and fiscal data from Ed-Data, a partnership of the California Department of Education, EdSource and Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team, which shows that enrollment in Sacramento City Unified has declined only slightly in the last five years. It also shows per-pupil revenues have increased 29% over the same five-year period. This is just one example of how there may be issues other than charter school enrolment, at play in the budget woes of Sacramento City Unified and other urban districts.

We oppose this measure.

Yours truly,



Caitlin O'Halloran  
School Governance and Policy Specialist

c.c. Assemblymember Bonta, committee and caucus consultants