

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 572 without my signature.

Charter school educators have proven that poverty is not destiny for students that attend public schools in California. Repeatedly, charter schools with high proportions of disadvantaged students are among the highest performing public schools in California. Any attempt to regulate charter schools with incoherent and inconsistent cross-references to other statutes is simply misguided. Parents do not need renewed faith in charter schools as suggested in this bill. On the contrary, tens of thousands of parents in California have children on waiting lists to attend a public charter school. Legislation expressing findings and intent to provide “greater autonomy to charter schools” may be well intended at first glance. A careful reading of the bill reveals that the proposed changes apply new and contradictory requirements, which would put hundreds of schools immediately out of compliance, making it obvious that it is simply another veiled attempt to discourage competition and stifle efforts to aid the expansion of charter schools.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger