

National Charter School Group Opposes Bill Loosening State Board Oversight

By Administrator

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The National Association of Charter Authorizers said in a letter to House leaders it opposes key sections of a bill changing charter laws, saying they will gut school oversight and leave the State Board of Education with little authority to close failing schools. The change would give the state charter school office time to focus on schools in need of the most help. But the association of charter authorizers objected. "This makes it possible for low-performing schools to escape or delay accountability for years," the letter said.

Additionally, the change would make the state ineligible for a federal charter school grants program that helps expand high-quality charters. The program requires reviews at least once every five years, the letter said.

The association also objected to proposed restrictions on closing low performing charter schools. Low-performing charters could not be closed if they meet growth or implement an improvement plan. The change would prohibit the State Board of Education from closing charters it thinks have deteriorated to the point they cannot improve.