Colorado Association of School Boards



















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Legislative Alert: Feb. 28, 2014



## **ACT NOW: Protect the confidentiality of attorney-client discussions.**

On Monday, March 3, the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote on HB 14-1110, which requires school boards to electronically record confidential attorney-client conversations held during executive sessions. We need your help to protect the attorneyclient privilege and persuade committee members to vote NO on this bill.

As explained in our January 24, 2014 BillBoard, HB 14-1110 requires school boards to record executive session conversations with their attorneys and keep a "privilege log" identifying the subject matter of the communications so that any party could challenge the claim of attorney-client privilege and obtain access to the tapes and underlying board discussions.

We urge you to contact your senator and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee today and urge them to vote NO on HB 14-1110. Below are some suggested talking points for an email or phone call:

- The bill is an inappropriate response to alleged wrongdoing by one or two school districts in the state. We do not have any evidence that there is a problem with improper use of executive sessions in the vast majority of districts.
- The bill will seriously "chill" school boards' ability to have candid discussions with their attorneys.

## CASB Fights Back on Student Success Act

The Student Success Act, HB 14-1292, will be heard by the House Education Committee, Monday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. pite any rumors you may have heard, CASB does not support the bill. On the contrary, at the direction of our Legislative Committee, we are working actively to amend the bill and do expect to see meaningful amendments on the floor of the House. Rest assured, CASB will move to an oppose position if the floor amendments do not satisfy our demands.

- The bill creates an administrative burden by requiring: (i) minutes reflecting time spent on each topic discussed in executive session; and (ii) a privilege log describing the nature of the attorney-client privileged discussions.
- The bill will create confusion as to how to sufficiently describe the "nature" of the discussion without providing too much or too little information.
- This bill was introduced last year--aimed at ALL local governments--and was killed by the Local Government Committee.
- This is bad public policy. There is no rational explanation for the bill's targeting of school districts and not other local public bodies.

Contact Your Senator (find contact information here) and Senate Judiciary Committee Members TODAY!

## Committee Members:

Lucia Guzman, Chair: (303) 866-4862; <a href="mailto:lucia.guzman.senate@state.co.us">lucia.guzman.senate@state.co.us</a> Linda Newell, Vice-Chair: (303) 866-4846; <a href="mailto:linda.newell.senate@gmail.com">linda.newell.senate@gmail.com</a> Michael Johnston: (303) 866-4864; <a href="mailto:mike.johnston.senate@state.co.us">mike.johnston.senate@state.co.us</a> Steve King: (303) 866-3077; <a href="mailto:steve.king.senate@state.co.us">steve.king.senate@state.co.us</a>

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Advancing excellence in public education through effective leadership by locally elected boards of education.

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