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Legislative Alert: May 3, 2016

Legislative Alert
Act now on issues that matter to school boards

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Speak up!

Tell House members 'No' on charter school bills

Who: All CASB members

What: Senate Bills [16-187](#) and [16-188](#), sponsored by Sen. Owen Hill, R-Colorado Springs, allow the state to dictate how school districts work with and fund charter schools. Both bills passed out of the Senate on Tuesday and now head to the House. SB 188 would require, among other things, that districts share a specific percentage of mill levy money with their charter schools. An amendment to the bill would phase in the mill levy takings over a two-year period, but this amendment doesn't solve the basic problem of all Colorado schools being underfunded to the tune of \$831 million due to the negative factor.

Both bills would trample on powers of local control provided to school districts under Article 9, Section 15 of the Colorado Constitution. The bills were crafted by the charter school lobby with no meaningful input from school boards, teachers or administrators. Senate Bills 187 and 188 are the wrong solution to achieve better educational outcomes for all students.

When: SB 187 and 188 now head to the House. The General Assembly must complete its work for the session by Wednesday, May 11.

Whom to contact: Not sure who your representative is? Use this [link](#).

Why: Local school boards work hard to earn the support and trust of their communities, especially on mill levy proposals, and

these bills break that trust and trample on decisions made by voters. These bills do not address the simple fact that Colorado has systemic fiscal problems that will not be solved by taking local tax dollars from school districts.

CASB asks school board members to email or call their representative as soon as possible. School board members need to express their opposition to both bills. It is vital that legislators, from both sides of the aisle, hear your voice on these proposed new laws. [Use this link to send an email.](#)

Please don't set this email aside. CASB needs you to immediately contact your House member.

CASB's Advocacy team is ready, willing and able to answer any questions you may have. Contact [Jane Urschel](#) (303-302-3809) or [Matt Cook](#) (303-302-3812) for more information.

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