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Legislative Alert: May 6, 2016



Speak up (again)!

Tell House members 'No' on charter school bills; late-night gambit shows this is high-stakes battle

The Colorado Senate finally took up HB 16-1422 – The School Finance Act – late on Thursday. And in the dark of night, Senators tried some legislative engineering that gives lawmaking a bad name.

Literally at the eleventh hour – 11:08 p.m., to be exact – the Senate tried to ram through an amendment to the School Finance Act that would force school districts to share mill levy money with charter schools. The amendment was written without input from school board members, teachers or administrators.

With almost no one still awake to hear the debate, the Senate came very close to saddling school districts with this poorly written law for years to come. Finally, the amendment was withdrawn. However, the spirit of the amendment remains in [Senate Bill 16-188](#) (Access to Resources for Charter Schools). Things are in flux, but that bill and a companion, [Senate Bill 16-187](#) (Measures Affecting Charter Schools), will be heard next week in the House Education Committee.

These bills are not about equality for all students. Many locally elected school boards have crafted meaningful relationships with their charter schools. These relationships often include sharing of funds. There is no need for another regulation forcing school boards to make decisions mandated by the state. Enough is enough.

There must be a thoughtful discussion of how Colorado funds all of its public schools. A backroom deal in the middle of the night

is not the solution.

Now is the time for you to speak up. School board members cannot afford to sit this one out. Contact your House Representative **TODAY** and ask for a **NO** vote on SB 187 and SB 188.

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

[Use this link to send an email.](#) Not sure who your representative is? [Check here.](#)

Thank you to all CASB members for responding to this effort. Our members are the strength of our organization.

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

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

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