

March 28, 2023

Re: HB 2890 relating to the approval of open-enrollment charter schools.

Dear Chairman Buckley and Members of the House Public Education Committee:

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony respectfully in opposition to HB 2890 as filed by Rep. Cunningham. Charter schools continue to grow in Texas and currently account for 7 percent of public-school students and 18.5 percent of state funding/revenue for public schools.

It is critical that taxpayer voices are heard through their elected State Board of Education (SBOE) officials in deciding whether to increase the number of charter schools in Texas. HB 2890 would now require a two-third's majority (10 of 15 members) of the total membership of the SBOE to veto a proposed charter instead of a majority of members of the board.

This bill allows only six of the 15 elected SBOE members to ensure approval of new charters put forth by the commissioner of education. Being granted a charter in Texas is a privilege and not a right. Proper vetting by TEA and the SBOE's ability to veto charters deemed unfit by a majority vote are critical measures that ensure Texas voters and taxpayers have a voice. High quality charter schools should be able to demonstrate through the current TEA and SBOE processes that they are qualified to operate in the state. The majority vote of the SBOE as elected officials is vital as the charter school system expands every year and takes a greater share of public-school funding from the state.

TASA appreciates the opportunity to provide information on HB 2890. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Amy Beneski
Deputy Executive Director, Governmental Relations
abeneski@tasanet.org
(512) 477-6361