

Pacific Charter Institute



SAVE GLENDORA SCHOOLS



**August 13, 2025**

Senator Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 7620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 84 (Muratsuchi) – OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Caballero:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to public education access, transparency, and innovation, we write in respectful opposition to AB 84, which will have significant and costly fiscal implications for charter schools, local educational agencies (LEAs), and the state.

While the stated intent of AB 84 is to strengthen oversight of California's charter schools, the bill in its current form imposes **expansive new mandates, duplicative auditing requirements, unfunded responsibilities, and bureaucratic hurdles** without a fiscal plan to support its implementation. As education providers and public stewards, we are concerned this bill will divert resources away from classrooms and student learning in years of declining enrollments and continuing budgetary shortfalls. Below are a few key fiscal concerns we urge the Senate Appropriations Committee specifically to consider.

The unfunded mandates on LEAs and charter schools for enhanced audits, financial disclosures, documentation requirements, and data reporting without any guaranteed funding stream put pressure upon current Proposition 98 allocations and complicates oversight responsibilities. Charter schools, especially smaller or nonclassroom-based models, will bear disproportionate per-pupil compliance costs and may be forced to reduce student programs, lay off staff, or close altogether.

Creating a new state bureaucracy within an already troubled California Department of Education neither provides any clarity on its authorities and enforcement powers nor explains how it would avoid duplicating oversight with the State Controller's Office, county superintendents, and

existing authorizers. Essentially, taxpayers would be on the hook for millions in ongoing general fund expenditures without improving oversight efficiency or educational outcomes.

Duplicating auditing and compliance requirements does not close existing gaps but imposes significant fiscal strain on schools already subject to annual independent audits. Adding overlapping compliance measures will drive up professional service costs and divert funding from instructional programs.

By limiting small districts' ability to authorize nonclassroom-based charter schools, and imposing uniform reporting formats designed for large school districts, AB 84 disproportionately harms rural, alternative, and startup programs, small school districts already constrained by staffing and budget limitations, and families who rely on educational flexibility, particularly in special education and independent study contexts.

These new restrictions unnecessarily increase bureaucracies at higher administrative cost and reduced local accountability where oversight can be nimbler and more effective.

The bottom line is AB 84 threatens to dismantle California's charter school system, which has served families well since its inception in 1992. While the bill's author has made multiple amendments, sometimes within hours of each other, it reflects a pattern of political gamesmanship rather than thoughtful policymaking that the public should expect from the legislature. After deep reflection about this bill's broad scope and harmful impact, we have concluded that there are no amendments that could be proposed to fix the fundamental problems with AB 84. The bill in any conceivable form would devastate not only charter schools, but also private schools and homeschooling families.

California families need more economical educational choices at a lower cost to the state, which charters provide, not fewer options with higher taxpayer costs. The legislative process should serve families, not political agendas. AB 84's well-meaning aims are overshadowed by its lack of financial planning and its potential to harm students, educators, and taxpayers. Presuming this bill is a candidate for the suspense file, and there are no meaningful ways to reduce the significant cost pressures on the state's ailing general fund, we respectfully urge you to hold AB 84 in the Senate Appropriations committee without advancing it further.

Sincerely,



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Vice President of Government Affairs & Education Policy  
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Executive Director, Stand Up CA



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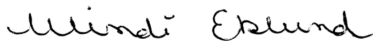


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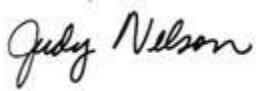
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