

California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 305
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4016
FAX (916) 651-4916

SENATOR.GROVE@SENATE.CA.GOV

SENATOR
SHANNON GROVE
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
SIXTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES
5701 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 150
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
TEL (661) 323-0443
FAX (661) 323-0446

7248 JOSHUA LANE
YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284
TEL (760) 228-3136
FAX (760) 228-2462



September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 1505 (O'Donnell)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 1505, which adds new reasons a local governing board may deny a charter petition; limits review of charter denial appeals; alters charter renewals from 5 years to 2-7 years; and suspends the approval of a petition for the establishment of a new nonclassroom-based charter schools

This bill allows school districts to reject a charter petition for broad and nebulous reasons that would be easy for any board to gin up. It also limits appeals of new charters to the State Board of Education by limiting the SBE's reason to overturn a denial to a finding that a district "abused its discretion." Again, any district that wanted to find a reason to deny a petition could easily do so; thus, the ability for the SBE to overturn a denial is effectively eliminated. Lastly, the bill eliminates "increases in academic achievement" as the most important factor in charter renewal or revocation. This makes no sense, and does a sad disservice to dedicated educators and hardworking students.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Grove', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader