

Dear IA Parents,

Being informed is an important part of living in a democracy. This announcement is intended to help you stay informed and be active in supporting charter schools.

When the first charter schools opened 25 years ago, it was predicted that at some point their existence would truly feel threatening to district schools. That time may have come. In very recent years, I have noticed a shift in attitude. Last year, several California districts launched an attack on Independent Study Charter Schools. There has been an increase in attempts to impose unnecessary restrictions and now a petition of circulating that intends to outlaw charter schools.

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2016-news-releases-and-advisories/proposed-initiative-enters-circulation16/>

The Union Tribune published an article that gives some reasonable information. You can read it here. <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/feb/15/charter-growth-stirs-trouble/>

The California Charter School Association put out the following statement:

*The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) vehemently opposes the Elimination of Charter Schools ballot initiative that is currently circulating that would repeal the laws governing charter schools. We believe that this is an extreme measure that is clearly out of touch with the families of nearly three quarters of a million students in charter schools or on charter school waiting lists, as well as with the strong majority of California voters who are clearly supportive of charter schools. Not only does this measure go against popular public sentiment on charter schools, but, if passed, it would incur a significant cost to taxpayers to implement and would close over 1200 charter schools, wreaking havoc on families in virtually every community in California. While we would expect that an irresponsible initiative of this kind will struggle to find any meaningful support in this state, CCSA will remain diligent to provide whatever protection is necessary to make sure that California charter schools keep on stride for creating even more high quality public school options for children and families in the future.*

I will continue to be vigilant and keep you informed as we go through this challenge together.