



FLOOR ALERT

Vote **NO** on AB 709 (Gipson) as amended September 1

EdVoice is strongly opposed to AB 709.

Although AB 709 attempts to take positive steps toward transparency and remediate potential conflicts of interest in the operations of charter schools as it relates to employees, the bill fails to consider necessary and legitimate operation needs and membership of charter school governing boards.

AB 709 fails to make any attempt to address the Governor's veto of AB 913 in the last legislative session.

AB 709 is seriously flawed and discriminatory to philanthropists, community members and other local supporters of school choice interested in serving on a charter school board, while assisting the school with access to needed facilities and temporary financial assistance below market rates.

AB 709 makes it a crime punishable in state prison to sit on a charter school board and provide a lease to a school for \$1 per year, or a below market rate loan to help with start-up costs.

Rather than address issues of recusal for actual or potential conflicts, AB 709 sends a blunt message that serving on a board while **helping a charter school through tough budget and facility issues is an act of partnership not welcome in California, and a criminal act punishable in the state prison.**

We urge a "no" vote on AB 709.