



July 1, 2015

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell  
Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4166  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 320 (Lara) Pupil fees: complaint of noncompliance: regulations (as amended June 30) – To be heard in the Assembly Education Committee, July 15

**POSITION:** Support

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 320 (Lara), legislation to strengthen the local pupil fee complaint process, so that it works better for parents and provides guidelines that are clear to schools.

The issue of fees at the local school district level is very important, and our organizations were closely involved in the negotiations in 2012 over AB 1575 and its predecessor, AB 165, which had been vetoed by the Governor in 2011. The final version of AB 1575 that was signed into law represented a delicate balance among the involved parties and the author.

We support the goal laid out in SB 320 because it is important for school districts to charge only those fees that are lawful and to ensure that there is an appropriate remedy for redress. Senator Lara, his staff and the bill's sponsor have worked diligently with us to alleviate concerns we had with the original version of the bill, and the June 30 amendments address nearly all of those concerns. While we continue to believe that the provision requiring a school district that has not appropriately complied with the timelines for a remedy to travel to a State Board of Education meeting is a solution that would be better addressed at the local level, the author's willingness to accept our other proposed amendments allows us to support the bill.

Our organizations remain in full support of ensuring that all districts levy fees appropriately, and support SB 320 as amended. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Dennis Meyers  
California School Boards Association



Jeffrey A. Vaca  
California Association of School Business  
Officials



Patti F. Herrera  
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools



Jeff Frost  
California Association of Suburban Schools  
Orange County Department of Education

cc: Senator Ricardo Lara  
Members, Assembly Education Committee  
Rick Pratt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee  
Robert Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
John Nam, Office of Senator Ricardo Lara