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Executive Director

## TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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February 20, 2007

The Honorable Florence Shapiro  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
Texas State Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Dear Madam Chair:

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) applauds your leadership and commitment to ensure increased transparency and accountability for charter schools in Texas. TASA believes SB 4 will further assist the Texas Education Agency in dealing with those charter schools that fail to meet the needs of the students they serve while making the business of charter schools across the state more open to the public.

To further the accountability and transparency of charter schools, we would suggest requiring all charter schools to comply with Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code, consistent with the requirements for school districts since the passage of HB 914 during the 79<sup>th</sup> regular legislative session. Chapter 176 requires school districts, and other local governmental entities, to post conflict disclosure statements and vendor questionnaire forms on their Web sites.

While we understand why you have included facility funding as an incentive for high achieving charter schools, we ask that you be mindful of the pressing facility needs that currently exist for public schools across the state. We urge your support for statutory language that would roll forward the Existing Debt Allotment and ask that the legislature continue to fund the Instructional Facility Allotment at an appropriate level.

Again, we applaud your efforts in SB 4 and all that you do for the schoolchildren of Texas. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Amy T. Beneski  
Associate Executive Director  
Governmental Relations