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Personalized Learning Charter School

April 30, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Kiley
Assemblymember, 6th District
State Capitol, Room 4153
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2011 (Kiley) as introduced on February 1, 2018

Dear Assemblymember Kiley:

I am writing in support of AB 2011, a bill that will help provide more fair and equal access for our enrolled students to state mandated educational services throughout the county in which our school is authorized and that our independent study classified public charter school must provide in school facilities. This bill solves the current fundamental disconnect problem that currently exists between state mandated educational services that must be administered in school facilities and current state policy that restricts where our independent study public charter school facilities may be located in the county in which our charter school is authorized.

Our school currently enrolls 950 students within our authorizing county.

% of our students that are:

- 51.7% are Socio-economically disadvantaged or otherwise disadvantaged
- 12.1% are SPED or special needs
- 12.6% are English Language Learners

California requires that all public schools, including all public charter schools, offer and administer a variety of academic tests and assessments at least annually to ensure that all of our students are appropriately placed and are on track for academic growth and success. In addition, all public schools are required to provide special education and special needs services, English language development services, and on-site science labs to fulfill UC a-g course requirements. All of these state required educational services must be administered in a school facility.

Further complicating this issue, a recent Appellate Court decision reversed a 14-year authoritative interpretation of charter school statute that had previously exempted charter school resource center facilities used exclusively to serve independent study pupils from the geographic restrictions that limited charter school facilities to be located, with few exceptions, only within the geographic boundaries of the charter school's authorizing district. This new authoritative statutory interpretation now creates an inherently unfair and unequal disadvantage for our students who happen to reside a significant distance from our school's authorizing district boundaries to be able to reasonably access our school facilities for essential state-mandated services.

Disadvantaged students who choose to enroll in our independent study public charter school should not be further disadvantaged from accessing state mandated educational services in their public school of choice by restrictive state policy. AB 2011 exempts independent study classified public charter school resource center facilities from these in-district geographical limitations to enable us to locate additional facilities in more convenient and more easily accessible in-county locations exclusively for the benefit of our independent study students and families and only for providing state mandated educational services.

AB 2011 helps solve this critical dilemma of unequal and unfair access to state mandated services for a unique and significant percentage of California's K-12 students that absolutely need additional state support to have the best opportunity to be prepared for 21st century college and career pathways. On behalf of our independent study public charter school students and families, we support AB 2011.

Sincerely,

The Learning Choice Academy