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Legislative News February 8, 2012

Charter school bill ([HB 77](#), Montell, R-Shelby) to be heard in House Education committee on Tuesday, February 14

As you probably know, the well-funded proponents of charter schools have continued their media blitz and are encouraging citizens to contact their legislators. **Dedicated public school support groups like KEA, KSBA, KASA, and KASS don't have money to spend on slick commercials, *but we do have you.***

Please let the members of the House Education Committee know that Kentucky does not need charter schools. (See list of members and emails [here](#).) Tell them that charters are an unproven educational experiment that Kentucky students cannot afford. Let them know that all Kentucky students deserve a great education. Make it clear that the existing public schools need their financial support and that you oppose diverting public funds to another educational system. Tell them that an efficient system of public schools must benefit every Kentucky student, not just a selected few.

Educators know better than most people that "different" does not necessarily mean "better." Make your professional expertise heard where it matters most. Help KEA and other dedicated supporters of public education stop this unnecessary legislation. **Please email or call the members of the [House Education Committee](#) and ask them to vote "no" on HB 77.**

KEA legislative information available at www.keepkentuckylearning.com

On the site you can view the entire KEA Bill Status Report. As you review the bill status report, you will see the term "Position" listed under the "Current Status" of each bill. KEA uses short descriptors for its bill positions, as follows:

Support: Means the KEA Board approves the intent of the bill and wants the lobby team to communicate in favor.

Oppose: Means the KEA Board opposes the intent of the bill and wants the lobby team to communicate objections.

Track: Means the KEA Board recognizes the bill has aspects that may

impact public education and wants to monitor the bill's progress through the General Assembly.

Anytime you see "LT Support," "LT Oppose," or "LT Track" on the KEA bill status report, that means the lobby team is recommending that position to the KEA Board, but that the Board has not yet officially adopted the position. When KEA does not have a position on a bill, that means we don't see any direct impact on P-12 public education and the bill is not listed on the bill status report. KEA's position on a piece of legislation may change as the bill progresses through the legislative process and is amended.

House Education Committee, Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Yesterday, House Ed took action on all the following bills:

HB 99 (Belcher, D-Bullitt): This bill will allow tuition waivers for a high school students enrolled in dual credit courses. KEA is tracking this bill.

HB 183 (Richards, D-Warren): This bill will permit - not require - local boards of education to enroll refugees and legal aliens in four year high school programs even if the student will be over 21 upon graduation. Representative Richards correctly explained that there are students in these categories who want to earn a high school diploma but would be prohibited from doing so because they would "age out" of eligibility for public school. Instead of having students who actually want to complete a course of study forced out and counted as "dropouts," Representative Richards proposes allowing them to continue to attend school as long as they make adequate academic progress and comply with the disciplinary codes. KEA is tracking this bill.

HB 279 (Rollins, D-Woodford): This bill confirms Executive Order 2011-356, which transferred the Council on Postsecondary Education from the Education and Workforce development Cabinet to the Office of the Governor. KEA does not have a position on this bill.

HB 342 (Edmonds, D-Breathitt): This bill will establish a more rigorous training and assessment program for superintendents who are new and also those experienced superintendents who are new to Kentucky. KEA's lobby team recommends support for this bill.

HB 362 (Smart, D-Madison): This bill will restructure the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation to conform to federal student loan administration requirements. KEA does not have a position on this bill.

HB 365 (Denham, D-Mason): This bill will grant the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation the authority to institute an administrative garnishment process for the collection of defaulted loans. The administrative garnishment amount is limited to 10% of disposable income as opposed to a judicial garnishment, which allows collection of up to 25% of disposable income. KEA does not have a position on this bill.

All of these bills passed the House Education Committee and will now

move to the full House for consideration.

The Senate Committee on Education will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, February 9 at 11:30 a.m. You can view the proposed agenda [here](#).

Sincerely,

Sharron K. Oxendine

KEA President



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