



On October 24, 2016, Board President Scott Jelinski sent the below letter regarding PA House Bill 530 to the District community. On October 27, 2016, he sent a follow-up message (below, page 2).

October 24, 2016

Sent via SASD e-mail to all users

I write to you today to urge your support to defeat a piece of legislation being discussed in Harrisburg that would have a serious negative effect on Souderton. House Bill 530 is a charter school expansion bill that is not taxpayer or public education friendly.

The House of Representatives is going to discuss, and possibly vote to approve, this bill within the next two days! Here are the reasons why it is a bad bill:

- It does nothing to address the fact that charters continue to be overpaid for special education costs.
- It does nothing to address that fact that charter tuition payments continue to drain our budget.
- It creates an advisory committee to study charter school funding. You might think this is a good thing – except that it excludes school board members, the folks that YOU elect to represent you and that approve your local budget.
- It allows charter schools to have significantly higher fund balances than school districts (and they are already hoarding money).
- It does nothing to address fraud, waste and abuse by charter management companies.
- Believe it or not, all of this would make charter schools less accountable than they already are.
- Most importantly in SASD, **this bill would allow charter schools to expand without any school board approval.**
- Although there are a few good changes in the bill, including minimal savings for cyber schools, but that pales in comparison to what charter school expansion would cost us in their unchecked enrollment increase. We cannot afford a bill that takes away even more control over the Charter School...it is already next to impossible to get them to be transparent and accountable!

The School Board is committed to safeguarding your tax dollars while providing an excellent traditional public school education. That is why I am personally asking you to contact your House member either Representative Godshall or Representative Toepel and Senator Mensch and Senator Greenleaf and tell them to vote "no" on HB 530 because it is bad for our community. Below is the contact information that you will need.

Thank you for your support of SASD!



Sincerely, Scott C. Jelinski
President, Souderton Area School Board

October 27, 2016

Sent via SASD e-mail to all users

I am writing to thank the Souderton Area School District community members for their response to my e-mail from earlier this week. I am pleased to tell you that House Bill 530, the charter school expansion bill, has been removed from the PA Legislature's voting schedule at this time. Thanks to the advocacy of people in this community and around the state, the bill, which was not taxpayer or public education friendly, has been halted.

As the SASD School Board President, I will continue to promote high quality education for our children and ensure that we provide the resources to make them successful.



Sincerely, Scott C. Jelinski
President, Souderton Area School Board