

March 24, 2015

Honorable Bob Huff
State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SB 597: SUPPORT
Senate Education Committee
April 8, 2015

Dear Senator Huff:

The _____ Unified School District has reviewed your SB 597 and has taken a position of support for the bill.

SB 597 will re-authorize, for one year, the existing School Districts of Choice statute allowing parents greater opportunities to choose the appropriate educational opportunity. The bill would extend the program until June 30, 2017.

The District of Choice program has been in place for 22 years. During that time, the program has allowed greater choice for parents to transfer their children to participating school districts without a formal transfer agreement between districts. To participate in this program, districts can declare themselves "districts of choice" via a board action. This allows parents to enroll their children in the neighboring district of choice without their district of residence saying no. In return, the district of choice cannot deny admission to any student, as long as there is room, ensuring there is no self-selection of students. If there are more students seeking to enroll in a district of choice than there are spots, a lottery will be used to ensure fairness in the selection process.

The _____ Unified School District has been a District of Choice for **XXX** years. In that time, parents and students from surrounding districts have sought to enroll in RUSD because of its high quality academic programs and innovative educational opportunities. The programs offered by _____ are the most robust academic offerings in the area. **Add in specific academic opportunities that draw students.** The districts of choice program allows these programs to serve a wider number of students.

The demographics of the students entering _____ as a part of the Districts of Choice program closely mirror the demographics of the district as a whole (**assuming this is the case**). **ADD IN ANY DATA THAT YOU HAVE THAT MAKES THIS CASE.**

Again, the _____ Unified School District strongly supports SB 597. If we can be of further help please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. _____
Superintendent
_____ Unified School District

cc: Senate Education Committee members
COPY LOCAL LEGISLATORS