

## Take Action! Senate Bill 376



### TAKE ACTION ALERT: OPPOSE SENATE BILL 376

Florida PTA supports informed school choice, and applauds the numerous charter schools within our state that enrich their students' lives through innovative curricula and fresh approaches to learning. At the same time, we stand firmly behind our long-held position statement on the funding of charter schools: "**Charter schools must not deplete funding from existing public schools.**"

Unfortunately, Senate Bill 376 (Charter School Funding) does precisely this, by requiring Florida school districts to share with charter schools their property tax-generated revenues for school construction and repair as well as large equipment purchases. Such capital dollars would be distributed not on the basis of need, but rather on a student-by-student basis, meaning that traditional schools, many constructed more than 50 years ago, could receive less funding than needed, and could be forced to put off essential roof replacements, air conditioning repairs, or new school bus purchases.

We believe that charter schools deserve every penny of capital outlay funding that they need. We feel strongly, however, that the Florida Legislature should provide such funding without adversely impacting traditional public schools.

SB 376 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday, April 6. This is the bill's final committee stop before consideration by all members on the Senate floor. We urge you to contact your Senator **today**, and express your opposition to SB 376. Ask your Senator to support **all** students, and find a sustainable source of funding for charter school construction and repair needs at the **state** level rather than depleting resources for local traditional public schools.

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