



April 13, 2016

Representative
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Re: House Bill 1906

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the 4,500 elected officials who govern the commonwealth's public school districts, **I am writing to request your support of Chairman Saylor's Amendment A06807 to House Bill 1906**, which could be considered by the House on Wednesday, April 13th. Realizing that this bill continues to move forward in the legislative process, we have worked with the Chairman to develop what we strongly believe to be the best method for providing school board education. This amendment is similar to legislation already passed in twenty-one states across the country.

House Bill 1906 requires all newly elected or appointed school directors to complete a training program developed and offered by PDE during the first year of their first term. We have stated that we do not feel PDE has the capacity nor the ability to provide school directors with comprehensive training. PSBA offers and will continue to promote new school director training and continuing education programs as a valuable offering to our members. Under Amendment A06775, the Department will contract with PSBA to provide this training to our districts in the same meaningful and thoughtful manner we have always done. We strive to ensure that PSBA members will receive high-quality, relevant, and practical education and tips during our in-person and online trainings. We believe that Amendment A06775 provides a solution that will allow school directors the same access to training with the source they trust and the robust offerings they depend on. Some statistics on PSBA's current efforts include:

- New school director training offered by PSBA was just completed in over ten locations across the state. We trained two-thirds of all new school directors (925 total school directors, 628 newly elected).
- PSBA offers over 50 online courses that school directors can take any time and from any location.
- 32 customized workshops have been held during the current year for districts that requested one-on-one time (York, Allentown, Reading, etc.)

- Monthly webinars are held on a wide range of trending topics.
- 3 advanced school finance courses have been held this year.
- Yearly negotiation skills workshops are hosted.
- Spring legal roundup (14 sessions) are held statewide annually, going over legal and ethical topics that are pertinent to schools.
- In 2015, we had 895 course completions (about 60 per month by school directors)

PSBA continues to be opposed to mandated training, but realizes that this amendment follows best practices of other states and may strengthen the education that is already offered. Further, the amendment allows for other organizations to provide training through an accreditation system.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (717) 506-2450 x3337.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Callahan". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

John M. Callahan
Assistant Executive Director