Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

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PASBO Applauds Introduction of Charter and Cyber Charter School Reform Legislation

Harrisburg (June 13, 2011).—The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials applauds Minority Chair of the House Education Committee, Representative Jim Roebuck (D-Philadelphia) and House Democratic Policy Committee Chair, Representative Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster) for their introduction of legislation to implement oversight and funding reforms with regard to charter and cyber charter schools.

PASBO has endorsed a legislative review of cyber charter school funding, putting changes to cyber charter payments by school districts as one of the top priorities of its members. Charter and cyber charter schools can be an appropriate education option for some students but funding needs an overhaul, especially in light of the elimination $224 million is state support to help offset charter and cyber charter costs.

Legislation introduced today by Reps. Roebuck and Sturla would enact several necessary reforms including, but not limited to, creating fund balance limitations; capping tuition payments for certain special education students, removing the requirement that school districts provide per pupil funding for resident or nonresident students attending a cyber charter school, and directing the Department of Education to determine the funding level for each cyber charter school it has chartered.

"The funding reforms offered in the Roebuck-Sturla bill are absolutely critical," says Jay Himes, PASBO Executive Director. The current formula mandated in state law for students who attend charter schools results in vastly different payments for the same educational delivery . "The funding provision included in the legislation would mitigate the myriad of funding levels that currently exist, making the funding of cyber charter schools more rational and equitable." According to Himes, reducing costs across-the-board is critical at a time when there are significant reductions in educational programs and personnel.

PASBO applauds the efforts of Reps. Roebuck and Sturla for championing charter and cyber charter school reform, and looks forward to the bill's passage in committee and on the floors of the House of Representatives and Senate and, ultimately, receipt of the Governor's signature.

About the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

PASBO is a statewide association of three thousand members representing K-12 non-instructional administrators below the rank of superintendent and providers of products and services in the school marketplace. PASBO's active members support classroom learning by providing services including finance and administration, accounting, facilities management, transportation, food service, technology, purchasing, communications, safety and human resources for local education agencies. For more information, visit PASBO's website, http://www.pasbo.org.

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