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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Colorado League of Charter Schools. Don't forget to add [srader@coloradoleague.org](mailto:srader@coloradoleague.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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## Charting the Capitol Legislative Updates - February 7, 2014

### Facilities Financing Front and Center

We know how critical the issue of facilities financing is to our members, and that's why - at least in the early days of the 2014 legislative session - the League has made it a focal point of our advocacy efforts. Read on for further details about this and other news of note from the Capitol, and as always, please don't hesitate to contact [Dan Schaller](#), Director of Advocacy at the League should you have any questions or concerns.

#### Moral Obligation Bill Drops

In addition to the [Charter School Capital Construction and Revolving Loan bills](#) already in motion, another bill related to charter facilities funding was also introduced last week. This one - Senate Bill 14-139 sponsored by Assistant Minority Leader Mark Scheffel (R-Parker) - would increase the cap on the state's "Moral Obligation" program from \$400 million to \$500 million.

Started in 2003, the Moral Obligation program enables certain qualified charter schools to have their facilities bonds backed by the state, thereby creating more favorable financing terms for the school and lowering their interest payments. Since its inception, the program has had a strong track record of success, benefiting 32 charters across the state and regularly pushing the limit on its defined statutory cap.

All of which is why *the League is pushing for an increase on that cap* so that additional charter schools can take advantage of this innovative program. Click [here](#) to view the full text of the bill. If you have a story about how the Moral Obligation program has benefited your charter school, we need to hear it! Please email your story to [dschaller@coloradoleague.org](mailto:dschaller@coloradoleague.org)

#### Share Your Mill Levy Stories

Speaking of stories, the League is also soliciting feedback related to mill levy experiences across the state. In order to promote legislation that would afford charters greater involvement in mill planning conversations, we need information regarding the mill election planning process in your district and whether or not charter schools have been included. Click [here](#) for more details, and if you have such a story, please email it to [dschaller@coloradoleague.org](mailto:dschaller@coloradoleague.org).

#### Online Task Force Begins Work

Last week a group of bipartisan legislators announced the creation of a task force dedicated to examining issues related to online education in the state. The seven-member group held their first meeting on Wednesday and will be working quickly to assemble recommendations by March 21st to

drive possible legislation this session. Click [here](#) for more information about the task force and its members, and we will keep you up-to-date as the work of the group unfolds.

### League Legislative Tracker

With nearly 50 education bills already moving, there's no shortage of issues to keep track of - but no need to worry, the League's Policy & Advocacy Team has got you covered! If you want to stay on top of things yourself, be sure to check out our [Legislative Tracker](#) for up-to-the-minute details on all current education bills. Questions or concerns about any of these and their potential impact on charters? Contact us and let us know.

### Join us at the Colorado Charter Schools Conference

Finally, if you have not already registered for the 2014 Colorado Charter Schools Conference (Feb 20-21 at the Hyatt Regency DTC), time is quickly running out. With over 60 breakout sessions and prominent featured speakers such as Amanda Ripley, best-selling author of *The Smartest Kids in the World: And How they Got that Way*, and Former Minnesota State Senator Ember Reichgott Junge, author of Minnesota's 1991 first-in-nation charter school law, the Conference is not something you want to miss. [Click here](#) for further details and to register today.

If you have any questions about developments in the legislative session or about content in this newsletter, please contact me at [dschaller@coloradoleague.org](mailto:dschaller@coloradoleague.org) or Jessica Johnson at [jmjohnson@coloradoleague.org](mailto:jmjohnson@coloradoleague.org).

Sincerely,

Dan Schaller, Director of Advocacy  
Colorado League of Charter Schools

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