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MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012

LEGISLATURE TIRRC, ACO and AMAC Join Chorus Calling for Haslam Veto

POSTED BY STEVEN HALE ON MON, APR 23, 2012 AT 11:02 AM

In a letter sent to Gov. Bill Haslam, the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, the American Center for Outreach and the American Muslim Advisory Council call for a veto of the bill that would limit foreign workers in Tennessee charter schools. They join Michelle Rhee, the nationally known education activist who wrote Haslam last week with the same message.

Earlier this month, TIRRC called the bill a "thinly veiled attack on Muslims" and they have continually pointed out the bill's origin: the Tennessee Eagle Forum, who previously hatched legislation — sponsored by Sen. Bill Ketron, who also sponsors the charter school bill — that would have outlawed the practice of Shariah law.

The letter calls their latest bill SB3345/HB3540 "a continuation of [the Eagle Forum's] controversial anti-Muslim campaign from last year," cites the supposed source of its charter-school paranoia — some schools in other states that were being run by Turkish immigrants — and argues that the bill would effectively serve as an "absolute bar for all but the very largest of charter schools."

Haslam has already expressed concerns about the bill and his comments seemed to indicate that a veto was possible.

The full text of his latest piece of mail on the subject is [here, in PDF form.](#)

Tags: Bill Haslam, Bill Ketron, TIIRC, Tennessee charter schools, Tennessee Eagle Forum, Sarah law, Michelle Rhee, SB3345, HB3540

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