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Assembly California Legislature



ANTHONY RENDON, Ph.D.
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: UTILITIES AND COMMERCE
APPROPRIATIONS
NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT
AND SOCIAL SECURITY
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

January 6, 2016

Honorable Steve Zimmer
President, Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Opposition to the "Great Public Schools Now" proposal by the Eli Broad Foundation

Dear Board President Zimmer:

I write in opposition to the "Great Public Schools Now" proposal by the Eli Broad Foundation and urge the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education to pass the "Excellent Public Education for Every Student" resolution that will be presented at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016. Every student should have a great public education but if our resources become divided as the "Great Public Schools Now" proposal recommends, we will never be able to adequately provide students the education they deserve.

I represent the 63rd Assembly District that includes the cities of Maywood, Bell, Cudahy and South Gate that are served by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). These are working class communities that are faced with major hardships every day. Choices of putting food on the table or having a roof over their heads are struggles that many families in my district face. Our schools provide a haven for children. A place where they are safe, can find food, and have a pathway to a better life. These schools are already underfunded. They are struggling to meet the expectations of today and if we begin to create what the "Great Public Schools Now" proposal calls for we are going to see major issues in academic achievement, access to academic materials and technology, and adequate maintenance of facilities.

Our Educational system is faced with problems and we must address those issues in a systematic and responsible way. The answer is not to create a whole new system that will only cause confusion and divide resources. I also fear that the students that need the most help like those served in special education, our foster youth, English Language Learners etc... will be left behind. I was the Executive Director of an Early Childhood Education nonprofit and know firsthand the importance of serving these subgroups. We cannot let them be marginalized.

We have a long road ahead of us to ensure that we are making the strides needed to improve our educational system. Let us work together to create a system that gives every student a quality education and not just some. I oppose the "Great Public Schools Now" proposal by the Eli Broad Foundation and ask that the Board of Education to please join me in supporting the "Excellent Public Education for Every Student" resolution.

Feel free to contact me at (562) 529-3250 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ANTHONY RENDON, Ph.D.
Assemblymember, 63rd District

AR: rg-l

CC: Board of Education
Michelle King, Acting Superintendent of Schools