

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Resolution No. 08-19**

**In Opposition to Assembly Bill 1505 – Charter Schools**

Resolution in Opposition to Assembly Bill 1505 (O'Donnell, McCarty, Smith), as amended March 14, 2019, to limit the power and discretion of county boards of education to authorize charter schools and make other changes to law that could result in the closure and denial of charter schools throughout the state, without regard to the quality, need or demand for the school; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Charter Schools Act was enacted in 1992 to “to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from the existing school district structure” and to “Increase learning opportunities for all pupils, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for pupils who are identified as academically low achieving”; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1505 repeals Education Code Section (EC) 47605.6 which would eliminate county boards' authority to authorize new charter schools providing a countywide benefit, thereby eliminating a critical tool for county boards to authorize high quality programs to meet the needs of students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Board of Education authorized and oversees 14 public charter schools, one of which is Samueli Academy, a Title 1 school that serves some of the most vulnerable students in Orange County, including foster youth; the 14 public charter schools operate throughout Orange County and educate over 14,000 students, and in aggregate have a waitlist of over 3000 students; these public charter schools focus on closing the achievement gap in some of Orange County's most under-served communities of students and regularly outperform state student achievement averages and high school graduation rates; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1505 would eliminate the charter appeal process for existing charter schools that are revoked or non-renewed and would severely limit appeals for new charter petitions, thereby denying a critical safeguard for local communities, families, and teachers to appeal to a neutral party an often-political decision to deny or close high-quality schools; and, whereas, denying and/or limiting the right to appeal a local charter decision to a higher authority undermines democratic justice and due process; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Gavin Newsom and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond have established a Charter Task Force to evaluate the impact of charter schools on school districts, identify what is best for students, and provide a report and recommendations to the Governor by July 1, 2019; and, whereas, AB 1505 is premature because imposing significant new restrictions on charter schools and changing the charter school authorization and appeal process before the Governor's Charter Task Force has completed its work would undermine the intent and value of the Task Force.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Orange County Board of Education hereby opposes AB 1505 (O'Donnell, McCarty, Smith).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Orange County Board of Education at a public meeting duly called and held in Orange County this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019 by the following vote:

AYES	<u>3</u>	<u>Williams, Barke, Sparks</u>
NOES	<u>2</u>	<u>Gomez, Bedell</u>
ABSENT	<u>0</u>	_____
ABSTAIN	<u>0</u>	_____

Ken Williams, Jr.

Ken Williams, Board President

Mari Barke

Mari Barke, Board Vice President

Darou Sisavath

Darou Sisavath, Board Secretary

