



11501 Atlantic Avenue, Lynwood, CA 90262

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Alex Johnson
President and Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway
Downey, California 90242

Re: Oral Statement in Opposition to the Soliel Academy Charter School Petition

Good afternoon,

My name is Rose Witucki. I have been a teacher in Lynwood for twenty-six years. My house may not be in Lynwood, but my heart sure is. I have come to think of the children of Lynwood as my own; and like all parents, I want nothing but the best for them. I, along with all the teachers of Lynwood, are the most qualified to provide the best education for our children.

We are certified and **we** possess authorization to teach English language learners, students with disabilities, students from various cultures, students who excel academically and students who are academically challenged. Many of us hold advanced degrees in education. You know there is no substitute for experience, and **we** have experience. About 70 percent of my colleagues have taught in this district for ten years or more and **we** have engaged in high quality professional development over the past several years in order to provide our students with the latest researched-based pedagogy and technology. Soliel Charter School **cannot** say that.

We teachers are part of the fabric of this community and **we** have the knowledge and resources to care for many of the needs of our students and their families. **We** offer dual immersion classes and English Language Development courses. **We** have the means to refer, diagnose and serve special-needs students within the district. **We** offer parent education classes. **We** can connect our families to local healthcare, counseling, and other community services. Soliel Charter School **cannot** say that.

Our district provides our students with opportunities to participate in art, music, math, science, and sports throughout the state. We prepare our students for college and career from the minute they walk through our doors. Soliel Charter School **cannot** say that. Student achievement has continued to increase and thrive in Lynwood Unified. Soliel Charter School cannot possibly provide everything our teachers and our district provides. **All** of Lynwood's children deserve the best education and that is what Lynwood USD offers.

Thank you,

Rose Witucki
Secretary
Lynwood Teachers Association

