



**LYNWOOD
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION**

11501 Atlantic Avenue, Lynwood, CA 90262

September 12, 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 Soleil Academy Charter School Petition

Good evening to the LACOE Board of Education and many colleagues in the room:

I stand here today asking you to deny the Soleil Academy's request to open a charter school. The overarching theme of my speech is, "if it isn't broke, don't fix it." I have been employed with the Lynwood unified school district for 18 years. I could not be more proud, as I am right now, to call myself a Lynwood teacher. I concede this was not always the case. The district has faced many challenges throughout the years, from low employee morale, financial instability, to lack of teaching resources. But during the last five years or so, we have soared to the notable position of being titled "district of the year" by the California educator. With the implementation of highly esteemed programs such as PBIS and AVID, just to name a few, our students are now equipped with the skills necessary to excel in today's competitive society. As a teacher I feel I am being provided with the resources and professional developments needed to help my students achieve success.

As I read Soleil's mission, it rings alarmingly similar. The core program elements which they will use to reach every scholar, are all current methods successfully implemented within our district. So as an educator, I only see this charter as a means to deplete enrollment, funding, and therefore resources for my classroom and students, derailing the road of progress we are currently traveling down. I especially take offense to their claim of highly qualified teachers. I am a highly qualified teacher, deemed by the state of California. As the California education code states, charter educators may hold a certificate, permit, or equivalent document. So as Soleil attempts to entice parents with the promise of something better, Lynwood has already followed through on theirs. When their promises do not come to fruition, Lynwood will be left to re integrate these students and bear the burden left behind. So again, I ask that you deny this charter request.

Thank you.

Joy Deyarmond
Director of Elementary Schools
Lynwood Teachers Association