

January 18, 2019

Dear Superintendent Beutner,

We write in our capacity as the Executive Council of the Collective Bargaining Congress-American Association of University Professors, representing over 43,000 professors across the nation, to urge you to return to the table and cease the expansion of charter schools in Los Angeles. We echo UTLA's rejection of your model "portfolio district," a 32-district Wall Street model that has closed neighborhood schools, turned schools over to private operators, and increased segregation.

John Dewey's words in the AAUP's 1915 *Declaration of Principles* were never so true as today:

*American institutions of learning are usually controlled by boards of trustees as the ultimate repositories of power... **It therefore becomes necessary to inquire into the nature of the trust reposed in these boards, and to ascertain to whom the trustees are to be considered accountable...** If... a wealthy manufacturer establishes a special school...these... essentially proprietary institutions, in the moral sense... do not... accept the principles of freedom of inquiry, of opinion, and of teaching; and their purpose is not to advance knowledge by the unrestricted research and unfettered discussion of impartial investigators, but rather to subsidize the promotion of the opinions held by the persons, usually not of the scholar's calling, who provide the funds for their maintenance.*

The proliferation of charter schools in Los Angeles is driven by massive donations from wealthy benefactors to the California Charter Schools Association. In return, the CCSA receives exclusive access to the LAUSD School Board members it elects through these donations. Meanwhile, charter schools have been reinvented—from what were once teacher-driven laboratories—into a competing system of management-driven schools that deprive educators and their students of the basic tenets of academic freedom and discourse.

Low-income students are hit the hardest, of course, when their schools must compete for funding and the results of administrative overlap with privatized, self-segregated, charter schools.

We at the CBC-AAUP stand shoulder to shoulder with our faculty colleagues in UTLA as they fight for AAUP principles and quality education.

Sincerely,

The Executive Council, CBC-AAUP

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