May [DATE], 2021

The Honorable Assemblymember [Legislator’s Full Name]

State Capitol

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, California 94249

Re: AB 1316 (O’Donnell)

Dear Assemblymember [Legislators’s Last Name]:

On behalf of (describe your organization in name and composition), we are in strong **OPPOSITION to Assembly Bill 1316 (O’Donnell)** because it would fundamentally damage the viability of the entire California charter public school sector, and in turn devastate the ability of ALL STUDENTS to attain a quality education in our State, which is so vital to California’s economic growth and its commitment to equity. California has long been a leader on the world stage when it comes to innovation, job creation, and educational opportunity for all, and AB 1316 takes so many giant steps backwards for our State. Specifically, AB 1316 imposes unnecessary onerous operational requirements and limitations on charter schools that have nothing to do with supporting students and their access to a quality education.

As members of California’s business community representing job creators, little is more critical in the 21st century to California’s economic success than ensuring that its workforce has the competencies necessary to meet the challenges and skill demands of our modern era. Supporting the viability of charter schools operating classroom-based, hybrid, and remote learning models is consistent with our interest in ensuring that ALL of California’s children will receive a quality education no matter their individual circumstances. Charter schools, by definition, are designed to serve those students for whom the educational offerings of public schools assigned to students based on where they live is often insufficient to meet all learning needs and objectives, including students who have struggled in traditional academic settings. Frustrating students’ access to those programs by imposing unnecessary burdens and restrains on charter school operations, as AB 1316 does, will lead to ***substantially*** ***less opportunity for California’s students, not more***.

In this era where we recognize that each young person’s educational needs and circumstances are different, the Legislature should be taking a “check all of the above” approach to education, and not foreclose the critical additional and alternative pathways to college and career that charter schools enable. AB 1316 will result in the closure of charter schools that are serving students who would otherwise be left behind, and threatens California’s capacity to lead in the future. With California’s 182,000 population decline, and the loss of 160,000 students from the public school system this year at the same time charter school enrollment has grown by more than 25,000 students, now more than ever is the time to ensure that the State does no harm to the innovators in education, charter schools, that are working for students as evidenced by demand.

We support high accountability for all public schools, but under the law as recently revised, charter schools are already subject to heightened scrutiny and accountability. The present system works in identifying and closing down charter schools that do not merit continued existence. AB 1316 makes it unnecessarily challenging for charter schools to continue serving students who need them the most, and is the wrong approach to accountability. For the reasons stated above, we respectfully, but firmly **OPPOSE AB 1316.**

Respectfully,

Name, Title