

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

February 9th, 2018

To the Board of the Alameda County Office of Education:

The Wellstone Renewal Democratic Club writes in opposition to the appeal of Latitude Charter School.

We are concerned specifically with the negative effect this particular proposed charter school will have on existing public schools with very effective educational programs in the geographic area now proposed for Latitude. Two of Oakland's most successful and innovative programs at MetWest and Fremont High School offer the very kinds of services Education for Change/Latitude Charter says are so needed. The real effect will be to sap resources from these successful programs and undermine the models they have created. A vote to overturn Oakland Unified School District's Board decision would further destabilize the district financially as a whole, including these successful programs.

We are also concerned with the more general phenomenon of unchecked charter school growth in Oakland and other urban areas in California. Charter schools in general are not democratically controlled and therefore not accountable and are transferring public funds to private hands without any evidence of improving educational success. And we are particularly appalled that in fact charter growth is having the opposite effect by increasing racial and class segregation. Charters are known to "cream" those students without disabilities and language challenges while taking public funding from those most in need. We support the NAACP's call for a nationwide moratorium on charter schools for this very reason.

Please vote no.

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