



Lydia Gutierrez  
P.O. Box 1274  
Lomita, CA 90717

9th April 2015

Dear Ms. Gutierrez,

There are times in the course of an election where candidates are called to address issues that go beyond mere differences in leadership styles or accomplishments. Issues that get to the heart of why we are involved in this crucially important field of education. This is one of those times.

I have spent my career protecting our children as a U.S. Army officer, as a teacher, a school administrator, a Superintendent, and now a proud member of the LAUSD School Board. I consider it a sacred trust. It is a responsibility that I take on, not for political gain, but because I have the experience, the knowledge, and the dedication to carry out this duty.

That is why I cannot stand by while you knowingly and willingly endanger the children of Los Angeles Unified Schools. On one of your campaign websites, you have repeatedly stated that you do not support vaccinating our children. This is in the wake of several outbreaks of measles in Southern California - most notably the outbreak at Disneyland in late December, which infected 125 people.

As of today, the measles count continues to rise, and 21 percent of infected residents are living in Los Angeles County. This problem is not just close to home, it is in our backyards. Fortunately, outbreaks like this can be prevented through vaccination.

In February, Senator Richard Pan, a pediatrician, introduced SB 277 to ensure the health of all children in California schools. The bill went before the Senate Health Committee yesterday. I have put my full support behind this bill because I want to keep LAUSD students safe and healthy. You oppose it.



As a Board member, our children are my first priority. From the time they enter the schoolhouse doors until the time they graduate, it is my job to keep them safe, to protect them, and to give them the best learning environment possible. I will not let them down.

Many of LAUSD's children come from low income families, and a visit to the doctor or the emergency room because of illness can decimate household finances for months afterward. Vaccination is our children's only line of defense. It saves lives.

Ms. Gutierrez, there is plenty of room for differences of opinion on the School Board, but there is no room for policies that put our children at risk. Your position is not only extreme, it is dangerous. I urge you to revise your position - for the sake of the over six hundred thousand LAUSD students that would be affected should an outbreak occur.

Respectfully,

Dr. Richard Vladovic  
LAUSD Board Member – District 7