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**ORANGE COUNTY
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OF SCHOOLS**
Stefan Bean, Ed.D.

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jorge Valdes, Esq.
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Tim Shaw
Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.

September 29, 2025

Via Email: leg.unit@gov.ca.gov

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1020 10 Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Veto of Assembly Bill 727

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Orange County Department of Education ("Department") and Orange County Board of Education ("Board"), we respectfully urge you to veto Assembly Bill ("AB") 727, recently passed by the state legislature. While we appreciate the intent of the measure, AB 727 will create significant and harmful unintended consequences for California's already vulnerable LGBTQ+ student population.

The Department and Board have a demonstrated commitment to the LGBTQ+ population. Our schools have supported these underserved populations through mental health supports, curricular enhancements, and counseling services. The Board held repeated meetings with the LGBTQ+ representatives, including informational forums. The Department and Board are acutely aware of the challenges faced by this underserved community, and have offered continued service and outreach. Based on this demonstrated commitment, we find AB 727 to be a profound danger to the very population it seeks to protect.

The Trevor Project, which will be included on all student identification cards, provides direct access to TREVORspace. TREVORspace is an open social media platform with public posts, open commentary, and default-enabled direct messaging. These functions, combined with no real identity or age verification, create an environment that is vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. We invite your office to peruse TREVORspace.¹ We understand threats of dark thoughts and ideations, but respectfully submit that subjecting students to exploitation and trafficking while at their most vulnerable is a greater threat.

¹ When a user visits The Trevor Project at thetrevorproject.org, they will see a "Meet Friends" tab at the top of the page next to "Reach a Counselor" and "Donate." Selecting "Meet Friends" opens a page introducing TREVORspace.

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The Department and Board will stand with you and the State of California to find real solutions to address bullying, discrimination, and mental health struggles among the LGBTQ+ populations. Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration. We respectfully urge you to veto AB 727.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Stefan Bean, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stefan Bean, Ed.D.
Orange County Superintendent of Schools
sbean@ocde.us

A blue ink handwritten signature of Mari Barke, written in a cursive style.

Mari Barke, President
Orange County Board of Education
mari@maribarke.com