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**From:** Teren Shaffer

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 11:42 AM

**To:** 'Keller, Zach' <[Zach.Keller@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Zach.Keller@sen.ca.gov)>; Mei Tsang <[MTsang@uzllp.com](mailto:MTsang@uzllp.com)>

**Cc:** Thomas J. Umberg <[tumberg@uzllp.com](mailto:tumberg@uzllp.com)>; Assaf, Mufida <[Mufida.Assaf@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Mufida.Assaf@sen.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: JLAC audit of OCBE concerns

Zach,

I made my position clear in my prior letter to Senator Umberg. While I appreciate your comment (and his during testimony yesterday) that this audit is not about OCSA, it impacts OCSA as it does every other school under OCBE's purview. Spending an estimated 4,200 hours on an audit is an exorbitant taxpayer expense, an unnecessary fishing expedition veiled as anti-charter sentiment, and it will distract OCBE from their highest priority – serving students.

OCBE is a top-rate charter authorizer; full stop. In fact, I'd like to share the attached resolution recently adopted by our school's Board of Trustees recognizing their leadership, commitment to high quality oversight and expectations, and support for students. This is in stark contrast to collaboration with a public school district like Santa Ana Unified (our charter authorizer for 20 years). If anything requires an audit, it should be their practices which almost resulted in their desired bankruptcy of OCSA (humbly, one of the nation's top charter schools which SAUSD wanted to wipe off the map)... extortion, breach of contract, breach of trust, and ethical violations – anti-charter sentiment (not only levied against OCSA but against ALL charter schools under SAUSD's supervision back in 2020).

I can't understand why Senator Umberg's office would focus on OCBE when SAUSD requires so much support. Let's improve outcomes for students in our community and ensure quality for our children. Schools like OCSA endeavor to do this every day and we wouldn't be able to without the support of OCBE. Finally, I am fully supportive of accountability and excellent governance. However, if Senator Umberg had concerns about OCBE and/or what it's like to work with them/under their supervision, did he consult with charter school leaders whose organizations are authorized by OCBE for perspective on all sides?

Teren

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**From:** Keller, Zach <[Zach.Keller@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Zach.Keller@sen.ca.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 11:05 AM

**To:** Mei Tsang <[MTsang@uzllp.com](mailto:MTsang@uzllp.com)>; Teren Shaffer <[Teren.Shaffer@ocsarts.net](mailto:Teren.Shaffer@ocsarts.net)>

**Cc:** Thomas J. Umberg <[tumberg@uzllp.com](mailto:tumberg@uzllp.com)>; Assaf, Mufida <[Mufida.Assaf@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Mufida.Assaf@sen.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: JLAC audit of OCBE concerns

You don't often get email from [zach.keller@sen.ca.gov](mailto:zach.keller@sen.ca.gov). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Teren & Mei!

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding an audit of the Orange County Board of Education (“OCBOE”). At the request of a large number of constituents and after reviewing the various stories regarding the Orange County Board of Education “BOE” (see below) -- Senator Umberg requested an audit to determine if the OCBOE was acting in accordance with the law and with prudence in its expenditure of taxpayer funds. (I have attached some materials related to the audit request and the issues that led to the request.) The media reports and constituent allegations raise concerns regarding patterns of behavior and poor decision-making that may have put the taxpayers and students at risk. It is our hope that an audit will either lay these concerns to rest or lead to further investigation. We don’t have any concerns about Orange County School of the Arts.

1. <https://ocbe.us/Pages/Updates.aspx>
2. <https://voiceofoc.org/2021/08/california-supreme-court-swiftly-denies-oc-board-of-education-school-mask-mandate-petition/>
3. <https://www.ocregister.com/2022/03/04/court-says-oc-board-of-ed-vote-will-use-voting-maps-drawn-by-county-committee/>
4. <https://voiceofoc.org/2021/08/andrews-walker-rodriguez-an-open-letter-to-mari-barke-and-the-oc-board-of-education-concerning-your-panel-on-ethnic-studies-truth-hurts/>
5. <https://blog.csba.org/oc-board-forum-crt/>
6. <https://voiceofoc.org/2021/03/oc-board-of-education-superintendent-spend-3-million-in-legal-battle-to-pick-their-own-lawyers/>
7. <https://voiceofoc.org/2022/02/county-board-of-education-sued-for-reappointing-one-of-its-members-after-resignation/>

Lastly, if you or anyone you know has experienced any issues with the OCBOE please let us know so we can look into it!

Thank you,

**Zach Keller** | **Legislative Director**  
Office of Senator Tom Umberg - 916-651-4043



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