



# ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

JORGE VALDES, ESQ., DISTRICT 1  
MARI BARKE, DISTRICT 2  
KEN L. WILLIAMS, D.O., DISTRICT 3

TIM SHAW, DISTRICT 4  
LISA SPARKS, PH.D., DISTRICT 5  
STEFAN BEAN, ED.D., SECRETARY

May 1, 2026

Senator Thomas J. Umberg  
Thirty-Fourth Senate District  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6610  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Thomas J. Umberg  
Thirty-Fourth Senate District  
California State Senate  
1000 E. Santa Ana Blvd, Suite 220B  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Audit of Orange County Board of Education

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the Orange County Board of Education (“Board”), we are requesting a public retraction of your material factual falsehoods at the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (“JLAC”) hearing on March 24, 2026. Although the Board maintains that the vast majority of your testimony was inaccurate,<sup>1</sup> you testified about two (2) particular pieces of litigation that do not appear to exist.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, you mention a writ petition alleging a Brown Act violation<sup>3</sup> and an employment discrimination suit brought by an individual named “Seth Stevens,”<sup>4</sup> neither of which has any factual basis.

The Board is familiar with your service to your country and the State of California. As such, the Board does not believe you knowingly lied in your testimony before JLAC. However, providing JLAC with factually inaccurate and likely unverified information upon which JLAC relied to

<sup>1</sup> See “Fact-Check Summary” and supporting materials at

<https://ocbe.us/Documents/Fact-check%20summary%20and%20supporting%20materials.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See Recording of Joint Legislative Audit Committee hearing (Mar. 24, 2026) at

<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/joint-legislative-audit-committee-20260324> [statements alleging a writ petition concerning Brown Act violations at 02:16:06–02:16:28 and statements alleging an employment discrimination suit by “Seth Stevens” at 02:17:43–02:18:01].

<sup>3</sup> See “Declaration” regarding January 2023 meeting records at

<https://ocbe.us/Documents/Declaration%20regarding%20January%202023%20meeting%20records.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> See “Declaration” regarding employment settlement records at

<https://ocbe.us/Documents/Declaration%20regarding%20employmentsettlement%20records.pdf>

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May 1, 2026  
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commission an \$839,600 audit, raises legal concerns. Regardless of your position as a legislator and an audit requester, as a licensed California attorney, you are bound by the California Rules of Professional Conduct. Making false statements before JLAC necessarily implicates rules 4.1 and 8.4(c) of the California Rules of Professional Conduct and Business and Professions Code section 6068, subdivision (d).

Accordingly, the Board wishes to give you an opportunity to publicly retract the material falsehoods of March 24, 2026. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please direct them to my attention at [grolen@ocde.us](mailto:grolen@ocde.us) or (714) 966-4224.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Rolen', is positioned above the typed name.

Gregory J. Rolen  
General Counsel

cc: JLAC Committee Members  
Orange County Board of Education