RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 38
THE SCHOOL VOUCHER INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, Prop. 38 will appear on the November 7, 2000 general election ballot;

WHEREAS, Prop. 38 would use public funds to provide $4000 vouchers for private and religious schools;

WHEREAS, Prop. 38 gives $4000 vouchers for students already in private and religious schools, reducing the amount of money available for local public schools;

WHEREAS, Prop. 38 will hurt neighborhood public schools because every student who leaves a public school for a subsidized voucher school means a loss of critical funds for that neighborhood public school — that means fewer textbooks, computers and supplies;

WHEREAS, voucher schools will be essentially unregulated — voucher school operators are not required to have training, credentials or experience in educating children, and voucher schoolteachers are not required to have a teaching credential or a college degree;

WHEREAS, voucher schools are not accountable to taxpayers — although they would receive taxpayer money, voucher schools are not required to make decisions at meetings open to the public and are not required to have their finances audited;

WHEREAS, voucher schools are exempt from the state’s rigorous accountability system, and students are not required to meet educational standards to move to the next grade or to pass an exit exam to graduate from high school;

WHEREAS, voucher schools, not parents, will decide if a child can attend their schools, and Prop. 38 does not prohibit discrimination based on gender, religion, family ability to pay, English-language proficiency, or academic or physical ability;

WHEREAS, providing $4000 vouchers for the 700,000 current private school students will require nearly $3 billion, and Prop. 38 provides no funding for this purpose;

WHEREAS, Prop. 38 will require increases in county and state bureaucracies to monitor a separate voucher account for each voucher school student, potentially costing millions per year in addition to the voucher subsidies;

WHEREAS, paying for Prop. 38 will result in higher taxes or cuts in vital services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the ____________________________ (school district/county office of education) OPPOSES Proposition 38, the school voucher initiative.

ADOPTED THIS __________ Day of _____________________________, 2000.

___________________________________________________________________________

July 13, 2000