

Background: In the June 2016 Primary Election, a small group of billionaires spent more than \$11 million in several state legislative and county office of education races. This network of billionaire donors mirrors the dark money networks used by the Koch brothers. In fact, many of the same donors were directly implicated in an illegal dark money scheme in 2012. They promised to spend even more in the November election and have already begun writing big checks. Recent news headlines and academic studies have documented the waste, fraud and abuse by these privately-managed charter schools, which have cost taxpayers millions while hurting students. CTA and other civil rights groups have sponsored and supported numerous pieces of legislation to ensure equal access for all students.

Key Message:

California's educators launched the Kids Not Profits campaign calling for more accountability and transparency of California charter schools and exposing the coordinated agenda by a group of billionaires to divert money from California's neighborhood public schools to privately-managed charter schools. These billionaires are spending record amounts of money to influence local legislative and school board elections across the state. The Kids Not Profits campaign includes a series of radio ads and an informative website – www.KidsNotProfits.com – where parents and the public can get more information about privately-managed charter schools, their impact on students, the billionaires behind them, and can take action to demand accountability, transparency and equal access for all students. When the charter law was passed in California in 1992, no one ever intended it to be a playground for billionaires who want to profit off students and push their agenda on the rest of us. It's time to hold charter schools and their private operators accountable to some of the same standards as traditional public schools.

- Public schools should be about students and inspiring young minds – not profits. Educators, parents and civil rights advocates have been talking about the need for accountability and transparency of these privately-run charter schools for some time. We can't let a group of billionaires with no classroom experience push their profit-driven agenda on our public schools.
- The billionaires' coordinated agenda is to divert money from California's neighborhood public schools to fund privately-run charter schools, without accountability or transparency to parents and taxpayers; cherry-pick the students who get to attend charter schools – weeding out and turning down students with special needs; and spend millions trying to influence local legislative and school board elections across California.
- In the June 2016 Primary Election, a small group of billionaires spent more than \$11 million in several state legislative and county office of education races. This network of billionaire donors mirrors the dark money networks used by the Koch brothers. In fact, many of the same donors were directly implicated in an illegal dark money scheme in 2012. They promised to spend even more in the November election and have already begun writing big checks. We cannot let them continue to profit off our kids.
- The coalition is calling on Governor Brown to support AB 709, which requires all charter schools to be transparent and accountable to parents and to disclose how they spend taxpayer money, including budgets and contracts. It prohibits charter school board members and their families from profiting from their schools, and requires charter schools to comply with California's open meetings, open records and conflict of interest laws.