

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY: ‘School Choice is the Black Choice’ Town Hall Comes to Sacramento

WHO/WHAT: Renowned African American Journalist Roland Martin, Sacramento Chapter of the National Action Network Pastor Tecoy Porter and Fortune School President and CEO Margaret Fortune will host a Sacramento Town Hall to discuss the importance of charter public schools and school choice in the African American community.

The Town Hall comes at a critical time for charter public school families, and will be held the night before the California Senate Education Committee hears Senate Bill (SB) 756 by Senator Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles). This extreme bill will take public school options and opportunities away from families who need them most and threatens to shut down California’s charter public schools.

SB 756 will be heard in addition to the controversial package of bills that recently passed out of the Assembly Education Committee. Like SB 756, AB 1505, 1506 and 1507 by Assemblymembers Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), Rob Bonta (D-Oakland), Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), Patrick O’Donnell (D-Long Beach), and Christy Smith (D-Santa Clarita) also threaten to shut down California’s charter public schools and are sponsored by the California Teachers Association.

WHEN: Education Town Hall with Roland Martin
‘School Choice is the Black Choice’
Tuesday, April 23
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE: St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
3996 14th Avenue
Sacramento, California 9520

VISUALS:

Sacramento African American civic and faith Leaders, parents and students join with Roland Martin for a panel discussion on public school choice in black communities in light of AB 1505, AB 1506, AB 1507 and SB 756, bills that would kill charter public schools in California. Special guests include:

- Pastor Tecoy Porter, President of National Action Network, Sacramento Chapter
- Dr. Margaret Fortune, President/CEO, Fortune School
- Dr. Hazel Mahone, Professor Emeritus, Sacramento State University
- Larry Lee, Publisher, The Sacramento Observer
- Romel Antoine, Director Regulatory Affairs, California Charter Schools Association

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WHY: SB 756 will be heard in the Senate Education Committee at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 24, the day after this critical black community Town Hall.

This divisive bill will take public school options and opportunities away from families who need them most and threaten to close down charter public schools across the state.

‘School Choice is the Black Choice’ Town Hall will be held at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, a large and influential black congregation in the 7th Assembly District represented by Kevin McCarty, author of AB 1506 that would cap charter public school growth.

Charter schools have an undeniably strong track record of helping our state’s most vulnerable students achieve incredible academic success and are a lifeline for families eager for better options. Despite the strong evidence behind their success, charter school families are being attacked in divisive and misleading ways.

About California's Charter Schools

California's charter schools are public schools built to put the needs of students first. Public, free, and open to all, charter schools are a valuable part of our public education system. They offer a different approach -- one that is as unique as the kids they serve, one that puts kids above bureaucracy, and one that gives passionate teachers the flexibility to create dynamic lesson plans tailored to kids' individual needs. As a result, charter schools send more kids to college and are preparing more kids for the jobs of tomorrow.

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