

AB 1381 SENATE FLOOR VOTE AUGUST 28, 2006

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

COMMENTS BY SENATOR SPEIER BEFORE VOTING AGAINST AB 1381

“The Inspector General in this language, in this bill, this function is key to making sure there is some oversight going on there, with some independence. The language says the board *may* appoint an Inspector General, not *shall* but *may*.

“It provides that the new CEO Superintendent will not have to give any notice for any contract under \$250,000 and, in fact, will report to the school board at the next scheduled meeting, but of course the contract will have been signed. So where’s the oversight there? Now, the requirement that the Superintendent notice the school board for contracts over the \$250,000 is just that. It’s a notice. It’s a 45-day notice, but that does not mean that the school board has *any requirement, responsibility, nor authority* to ratify that contract.

“LAUSD has a \$19 billion school construction budget. And all of a sudden, for all of us that have been concerned about the oversight of the administration here, in terms of contracting, there is not going to be any oversight. Imagine *our* budget process, where we are given 45-day notice for all contracts over \$250,000 that are made by the administration, but we can’t do anything about them”!

COMMENTS BY SENATOR ORTIZ BEFORE VOTING FOR AB 1381

“And for those who have raised issues about the *conflict of interest* concerns and not enough disclosure and *public disclosure*, I agree. There *should* have been stronger provisions for public review but many on this floor have, uh, argued *against accountability* in far bigger institutions with *far more money* at stake that I raised comparable concerns about disclosure and conflict of interest and public review, so, let’s, uh...*we’ve already stepped over that line*, members, *let’s go forward*”!

