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For Immediate Release

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**UCLA CHARTER STUDY CALLED AN EMBARRASSMENT:
The study's conclusions are without merit,
says CER and other reform scholars**

December 2, 1998 The study, *Beyond the Rhetoric of Charter School Reform: A Study of Ten California School Districts*, written by reform critic Amy Stuart Wells, of UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, claims to have thorough documentation as to the ineffectiveness of charter schools, the freedom and autonomy they are given, and the concept of parental choice that they allow. The analysis is based on "research" on 17 charter schools in ten California districts.

CER performed an analysis of existing research on charter schools and found numerous data that counters the Wells report.

"There is abundant evidence that shows the positive benefits of charter schools nationwide. Of the nearly 50 studies done to date, more than 80% show positive benefits, this one is clearly baseless," said Jeanne Allen, President of the Center for Education Reform.

The studies have addressed the effectiveness and processes of charter schools. They are as follows:

15 national
3 regional
20 state
5 case studies;
and, in California alone, six studies since 1994 have been conducted, of which at least four have higher sample sizes than 17 charter schools.

"It's really embarrassing and shoddy work," said Allen. "Even less enthusiastic supporters of charters, such as teacher unions, have found reason to cheer the developments that abound."

"Evidence of achievement is arriving every day, and the Center is proud to be collecting this data and providing it to the public."

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