

**From:** J.Martin <J.Martin@amsterdamandpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 27, 2018 6:08 PM  
**To:** ritchiewhorton@gmail.com  
**Subject:** LEAD Academy  
**Attachments:** CA NAACP Resolution.pdf

Dear Representative Horton,

My name is John Martin, and I am an attorney with the law firm Amsterdam & Partners LLP. I am reaching out to you regarding a pending charter school application by LEAD Academy in Montgomery. LEAD Academy is one school in a network of charter schools – often called “Gulen Schools” – that has been the subject of numerous regulatory and criminal investigations, at the local, state and federal levels. These investigations have revealed highly suspect activities, including regarding financial mismanagement and insolvency issues, apparent fraud and self-dealing, discrimination, and unusual immigration/visa practices.

Amsterdam & Partners LLP represents the Republic of Turkey regarding an investigation of an exiled imam named Fetullah Gulen, who resides in Pennsylvania and surreptitiously oversees these Gulen Schools. My firm has spent more than two years thoroughly researching and gathering information about these schools from public sources and former employees, parents and students. Last year we released the findings in a book titled, *Empire of Deceit: An Investigation of the Gülen Charter School Network*. The book and other information can be accessed at [www.empireofdeceit.com](http://www.empireofdeceit.com).

Among other issues, we discovered nationwide that:

- Misuse of taxpayer funds totaling at least \$243 million;
- More than 6,504 H-1B visas to import unqualified Turkish teachers at a public cost of as much as \$26 million and lost jobs for American teachers;
- Nearly 81,000 students enrolled at Gülen Schools across 27 states and the District of Columbia; and
- Widespread manipulation of state mandated testing, grades and attendance figures.

I strongly encourage you to review our findings before inviting a Gulen School into your state. Others have taken a hard look at these schools. I suggest that you view at least portions of Mark Hall’s documentary, *Killing Ed*, located on our website above, as Mr. Hall has been actively researching and filming these same issues independently since 2011. Further, as attached above, the California NAACP issued a resolution in 2017 condemning these schools and requesting authorities to investigate them. And specifically regarding this application, the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) recommended that LEAD Academy be denied ahead of the (Alabama) state commission’s vote, because “the applicants failed to present a clear and comprehensive education program plan” and because a proposed loan from American Charter Development to cover costs of a new building raised financial concerns.

Our investigation of the Gulen Schools continues, and we want to ensure that you are fully aware of the risks involved with this network of schools. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss our findings. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Martin

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## CA HI NAACP STATE CONVENTION

Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel

OCTOBER 29, 2017 - RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE IMPACT OF GÜLEN CHARTER SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS**, there exists over 200 schools in the United States operated by the Gülen Organization, teaching over 80,000 American students. This organization operates under the names Magnolia Science Academy (CA), Horizon Science Academy (OH, IL), Harmony Science Academy (TX), Sonoran Science Academy (AR), Coral Academy of Science (NV), Dove Science Academy (OK), as well as others.

**WHEREAS**, audits having been conducted in LAUSD, the State of Oklahoma, the State of Georgia (resulting in their closure), the State of New York, have resulted in a pattern of massive accounting irregularities involving without limitation the use of Gülen related landlords such as Terra (NY, NJ), the Sky Foundation (OK), Harmony Public Schools (TX), Concept Schools (IL, OH), the use of Gülen Related Management Companies such as Accord (CA), Concept Education Services (OH), Apple Education (NJ), Terra Science and Education (NY), as well as others.

**WHEREAS**, Gülen schools; such as Magnolia (CA) have targeted the African American and Hispanic communities as shown in the documentary film Killing Ed.

**WHEREAS**, all 200 Gülen schools recruit teachers from Turkey under the H-1B Visa program thereby replacing fully qualified American teachers.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the California NAACP urges federal, state and local authorities to conduct forensic audits of both the schools, and the management organizations operating them.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the California NAACP further urges that these investigations be conducted by state and federal auditors as opposed to state boards of education, as well as other relevant investigations necessary to evaluate fully the apparent, suspect financial dealings, visa misuse, and highly suspicious conduct.

**Signed by:**

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**Alice A. Huffman, President**