

Thirty-second District



everychild.onevoice.

Revised Directions for Submitting Letters to Legislators – 2/24/2010

Thank you for being willing to speak up on behalf of children and influence the Governor and key legislators as they negotiate the State budget.

Attached are a series of 10 letters. They are addressed to the following people:

1. Contra Costa County legislators (send to your senator and assemblymember only):

- Senator Mark DeSaulnier
- Senator Loni Hancock
- Assemblymember Joan Buchanan
- Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
- Assemblymember Tom Torlakson

2. The “Big Five” decision makers (optional – send to any of these you wish)

- Governor Schwarzenegger
- Senator Darrell Steinberg, president pro tempore of the Senate
- Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Senate Minority Leader
- Assemblymember John Pérez, Speaker of the Assembly Elect-Elect
- Assemblymember Martin Garrick, Assembly Minority Leader

Please fill in your name and address on the first letter, print and sign letters to:

- Your **local** Senator and Assemblymember. To find your local Senator and Assemblymember, go to <http://192.234.213.69/amapsearch/framepage.asp>.
- All of the Big Five (optional if you are mailing letters separately)

Legislators will not consider unsigned letters or letters that do not include a street address or for which the name and address is not legible. Thanks to Jeff Eide, vp of communications for Strandwood Elementary PTA in Mount Diablo Council for the nifty program to copy names and addresses into the bottom of each of the letters – a real time saver!

When your letters are printed and signed, please mail each letter individually to the address on the letter. You may also fax the letters (fax numbers on the legislators websites – follow the link above) In some cases, your PTA may have a project to collect letters; you can contact your PTA to see if this is the case. (note: I apologize for previously incorrect information on the mailing of the letters – the current information comes directly from the Capitol).

Please contact Nancy Vandell, vice president for Education and Legislation, via email at nmvandell@comcast.net, or by telephone at 925-829-2355 if you have questions. She would also appreciate knowing that you sent them, as we have no way of being able to track responses.

Your letters do make a difference. Thank you for supporting children!

March 2010

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
State Senator
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

I urge you to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

The Governor's proposed budget purports to protect education, but in fact contains \$2.4 billion in cuts to schools over the next two years. This follows \$17 billion already cut from education (including higher education) over the past two years. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

California is ranked near the bottom when compared to other states in per-pupil education funding. Reflecting this lack of investment, our students' scores on nationally-normed math and language arts tests are among the worst in the U.S. (in a nation that ranks near the bottom of other nations in internationally-normed tests). California's students are generally less prepared for college and careers than other students across the country and around the world, and this threatens our ability to compete in the 21st century global economy. Every study on education reform says that California must spend billions of dollars more annually to provide an adequate education. Investing in education is key to a strong economy.

In addition, the Governor proposes deep cuts to health and human service programs vital to the well being of California's children. Many of the cuts make no sense, as they would make California ineligible for federal funds, or end up costing more in the future. Definitive studies have shown that early childhood education is key to later success in school; yet programs to support this are on the chopping block. Slashes to preventive medical and dental care, including immunizations, will end up costing more in the future.

California is in crisis, and it is time for legislators to drop partisan stances and find ways to develop more sustainable revenue streams. As your constituent, I respectfully ask you to adopt a budget that is free from the combination of cuts, borrowing and gimmicks that have been the mainstay of state budgets over the past several years. This approach has only served to lower the State's credit rating, compound the deficit and hurt our most precious resource: our children.

I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Loni Hancock
State Senator
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Senator Hancock:

I urge you to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

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Very truly yours,

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Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Joan Buchanan
State Assemblymember
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Assemblymember Buchanan:

I urge you to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

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Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
State Assemblymember
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Assemblymember Skinner:

I urge you to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
State Assemblymember
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Assemblymember Torlakson:

I urge you to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

The Governor's proposed budget purports to protect education, but in fact contains \$2.4 billion in cuts to schools over the next two years. This follows \$17 billion already cut from education (including higher education) over the past two years. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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California is in crisis, and it is time for legislators to drop partisan stances and find ways to develop more sustainable revenue streams. As your constituent, I respectfully ask you to adopt a budget that is free from the combination of cuts, borrowing and gimmicks that have been the mainstay of state budgets over the past several years. This approach has only served to lower the State's credit rating, compound the deficit and hurt our most precious resource: our children.

I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I urge you to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

Your proposed budget purports to protect education, but in fact contains \$2.4 billion in cuts to schools over the next two years. This follows \$17 billion already cut from education (including higher education) over the past two years. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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In addition, you propose deep cuts to health and human service programs vital to the well being of California's children. Many of the cuts frankly make no sense, as they would make California ineligible for federal funds, or end up costing more in the future. Definitive studies have shown that early childhood education is key to later success in school; yet programs to support this are on the chopping block. Slashes to preventive medical and dental care, including immunizations, will end up costing more in the future.

California is in crisis, and it is time for you and the legislature to drop partisan stances and find ways to develop more sustainable revenue streams. As your constituent, I respectfully ask you to adopt a budget that is free from the combination of cuts, borrowing and gimmicks that have been the mainstay of state budgets over the past several years. This approach has only served to lower the State's credit rating, compound the deficit and hurt our most precious resource: our children.

I ask you to leave a legacy that protects children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Senator Steinberg:

In your capacity as President Pro Tempore, I urge you to lead the senate to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

The Governor's proposed budget purports to protect education, but in fact contains \$2.4 billion in cuts to schools over the next two years. This follows \$17 billion already cut from education (including higher education) over the past two years. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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California is in crisis, and it is time for legislators to drop partisan stances and find ways to develop more sustainable revenue streams. As a parent, I respectfully ask you to adopt a budget that is free from the combination of cuts, borrowing and gimmicks that have been the mainstay of state budgets over the past several years. This approach has only served to lower the State's credit rating, compound the deficit and hurt our most precious resource: our children.

I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable John Pérez
Speaker of the Assembly Elect
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Assemblymember Pérez:

In your capacity as Speaker of the Assembly Elect, I urge you to lead the Assembly to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

The Governor's proposed budget purports to protect education, but in fact contains \$2.4 billion in cuts to schools over the next two years. This follows \$17 billion already cut from education (including higher education) over the past two years. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth
Senate Minority Leader
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Senator Hollingsworth:

In your capacity as Senate Minority Leader, I urge you to lead the Republican Caucus to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

The Governor's proposed budget purports to protect education, but in fact contains \$2.4 billion in cuts to schools over the next two years. This follows \$17 billion already cut from education (including higher education) over the past two years. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please pass a budget containing stable revenue increases. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

March 2010

The Honorable Martin Garrick
Assembly Minority Leader
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Budget that Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Assemblymember Garrick:

In your capacity as Assembly Minority Leader, I urge you to lead the Republican Caucus to pass a State budget that protects children and invests in the economic health of California through increased stable revenues for education and children's health and human services.

The Governor's proposed budget purports to protect education, but in fact contains \$2.4 billion in cuts to schools over the next two years. This follows \$17 billion already cut from education (including higher education) over the past two years. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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