

March 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Call for a State Budget That Protects Education and Children's Services

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

As a voter and parent in _____ School District, I am deeply concerned about the effect of your proposed budget on children. Your proposal makes devastating cuts to schools, in the amount of \$2.4 billion over the next two years, despite your pledge to protect education. It also decimates children's healthcare and family services.

In our school district, that translates to a \$ _____ cut or _____ percent. . This is on top of a \$ _____ cut in 2009-10 and \$ _____ over the last _____ years. Our children have already lost _____ (list examples - i.e. Class Size Reduction, Summer School, Home to School transportation, teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians, nurses etc.), and if this proposal goes through, our children stand to lose even more: _____ (list examples i.e. music, high school sports & activities, more teachers, administrators and support staff etc).

I strongly oppose this proposal and there are 9 million AND FIVE reasons why ...

1. California's more than 9 million children are our future. It is our duty to protect their well-being and invest in their education.
2. In the past two years, the state has cut \$17 billion from schools, and deep cuts to social services have added to the burden borne by the children and families most in need of help.
3. Investing in children benefits **all** California taxpayers.
4. The vast majority of Californians *support new revenues* to protect our schools from further cuts.
5. The time is **NOW**. Our children do not have the luxury of waiting without devastating consequences.

I call on you to ensure that additional stable revenues are provided in the 2010-11 state budget to invest in children and in California's future. I also urge you to support legislation to lower the threshold for passage of both the California state budget and revenue measures in the California Legislature, as well as local school parcel taxes, from the current two-thirds to a 55 percent vote or a simple majority.

We really can't race to the top in education if we sink to the bottom in our investment in children.

Sincerely,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

