



### Instructions for Submitting Letters

Thank you for submitting the following eight letters. Please follow these instructions, so that the Governor's and legislators' offices will accept them:

**Write your name and address** at the bottom of each of the eight letters.

**Sign** each letter.

**Drop off** your letters **no later than Thursday, February 18, 2010**, in the school office. We will be hand delivering them to Sacramento. If you cannot drop off your letters, you may send them each separately by mail (don't forget your stamps!).

#### Notes:

- If two or more people in your household are submitting letters, please submit a separate set of letters from each voter.
- Do not staple letters or place them in individual envelopes (they will be sorted and hand-carried to Sacramento).
- Submit only one set of letters per person.
- After February 18th, please mail your letters individually (include a stamp.)

**Don't forget to include your address, so that the letter will be counted by legislators** (if there is no address, they don't know if you are a real person; also they like to respond to your letters).

**Spread the word:** Email your California relatives and friends and ask them to submit letters as well.

Should you have questions, please email: [information@pleasantonpta.org](mailto:information@pleasantonpta.org)

Sending letters to legislators does make a difference. **Thank you** for taking a few moments to help convince the Governor and key legislators to focus on children's education.

February, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor of California  
State Capitol  
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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Ellen Corbett  
State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 5814  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

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

Dear Senator Corbett:

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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Mary Hayashi  
State Assemblymember  
State Capitol  
P. O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0018

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

Dear Assemblymember Hayashi:

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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
President Pro Tempore  
State Capitol  
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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Karen Bass  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Speaker Bass:

In your capacity as Speaker of the Assembly, 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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable John Pérez  
Speaker of the Assembly Elect  
State Capitol  
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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth  
Senate Minority Leader  
State Capitol  
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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Sam Blakeslee  
Assembly Minority Leader  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Blakeslee:

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. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit has a severe impact on basic school programs in our district. If additional revenues cannot be found, we ask that you make it a priority to reduce underfunded mandates, remove the penalties that remain in categorical flexibility options such as class size reduction, and remove the prohibitions surrounding capital versus operating funds.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_