

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 Torrance Unified 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 translated to a \$20,094,000 cut or 15 percent, compared to 07-08 actual funding. This is on top of \$20,018,000 cut in 09-10 and \$23,650,000 cut over the last two years. Our children have already lost: class size reduction in grades 4-12, summer school, except for students who needed assistance with the CAHSEE, instructional materials, GATE, some high school athletics, home to school transportation, arts and music block grant program, teachers, counselors, and nurses, AND if this proposal goes through, our children stand to lose even more: class size reduction in grades K-3, 121 more K-12 teachers, four more high school counselors, nineteen more full time para educators, one more elementary assistant principal, ten classified custodians and five classified campus security personnel. The negative impacts of these reductions and cuts will be adversely felt by our 25,000 students in their crowded classrooms and by the drastically fewer programs available.

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