

April 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 Capistrano 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 translates to a \$ 34 million cut. This is on top of a \$ 35.2 cut in 2009-10 and \$31 million over the previous two years. Our children have already lost ***Class Size Reduction, Summer School, Home to School transportation, teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians and nurses*** and if this proposal goes through, our children stand to lose even more: ***high school sports & activities, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade music, the International Baccalaureate program, the closing of elementary schools plus the loss of more teachers, administrators and support staff.***

***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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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