

April 2010

The Honorable Diane Harkey
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assembly Member Harkey,

As a voter and parent in Capistrano Unified School District, I am deeply concerned about the effect of the Governor's proposed budget on children. His proposal cuts public education funding by at least **another** \$2.4 billion and 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 million 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**. If this proposal goes through, our children stand to lose even more: **high school sports & activities, 4th and 5th grade music, the International Baccalaureate program, the closing of elementary schools plus 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, as my elected representative, to provide additional stable revenues 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 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 _____

