

## Instructions for Submitting Letters to Legislators

Thank you for being willing to speak up on behalf of children and influence the Governor and key legislators as they negotiate the State budget.

**Please follow these instructions** to submit letters to the Big 5, and our Senator and Assemblymember:

**1. Write your name and address** at the bottom of each of the eight letters, either by:

- Typing in Word and then printing, or
- Printing and handwriting (using return address labels is acceptable)

**2. Sign** each letter

**3. Drop off** your letters **no later than Thursday, February 11th**, in the designated box in your **school office**. We will be hand delivering them to Sacramento on **Advocacy Day!**

Notes:

- Submit only one set of letters per person. Please encourage all registered voters in your household to sign a separate set of letters.
- Do not staple letters or place them in individual envelopes (they will be sorted and hand-carried to Sacramento).
- After February 11th, 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.

Questions? Contact Legislation Team Co-chairs: Kathy Rangstrom, at [kranstrom@gmail.com](mailto:kranstrom@gmail.com) or Sarah Butler, [sarahgbutler@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahgbutler@hotmail.com)

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

Like to do more? Your presence can also make a difference.

**Join us** on the bus to Sacramento, **February 17 for Advocacy Day**.

To register or for more information go to

<https://www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=Y12V2K7>

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator DeSaulnier,

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
State Assemblymember  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Skinner,

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

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:

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

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:

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

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:

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

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:

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

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,

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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I ask you to please stand firm and invest in children. Please respond with your position.

Very truly yours,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

February 2010

The Honorable Tom Torlakson  
State Assemblymember  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Torlakson:

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. While these staggering cuts were mitigated somewhat last year by federal stimulus monies and the spending down of reserves by our school district, these were one-time rescue options and will not be available this year. A cuts-only approach to the budget deficit would have a severe impact on basic school programs in our district.

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