

*The
Education
Coalition*

Working together to support and
improve California's public schools

Association of California School
Administrators (ACSA)
*representing more than 16,000 school
administrators*

California Association Of School
Business Officials (CASBO)
*representing more than 4,000 school finance
and administrative managers*

California County
Superintendents Educational
Services Association (CCSESA)
*representing all 58 county superintendents
throughout California*

California Federation of
Teachers (CFT-AFL-CIO)
*representing nearly 90,000 education
employees*

California School Boards
Association (CSBA)
*representing nearly 1,000 K-12 school districts
and county offices of education throughout
California*

California School Employees
Association (CSEA)
*representing more than 230,000 classified
school employees*

California State PTA
*representing more than one million parents,
teachers, and students in California*

California Teachers Association
(CTA)
representing over 340,000 educators

Service Employees International
Union (SEIU)
*representing more than 50,000 school
employees in California*

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July 8, 2009

The Honorable Sam Aanestad
California State Capitol, Room 3063

Dear Senator Aanestad:

On behalf of the Education Coalition we are writing to express our strong opposition to Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to suspend the voter-approved Constitutional funding guarantee for K-12 education and community colleges—the Proposition 98 funding guarantee.

It is important to emphasize that Proposition 98 is very sensitive to state revenues, and the deep cuts already being imposed on education were allowable under Proposition 98 precisely because state revenues have declined so dramatically.

We are opposed to the Governor's recent proposal because it is intended to cut services to school children **even deeper** than is permitted under a Constitutional funding formula that allowed more \$2 billion in program cuts just this past February.

Further, the Governor's proposal to suspend the Proposition 98 constitutional protection would not only result in deeper cuts to education in 2009-10, but would lower that funding guarantee in future years—putting services to school children at even greater risk.

Schools in communities throughout California are suffering today from the impact of the state budget cuts that have already been enacted and they fear more are to come. The voters approved Proposition 98 because they wanted to prevent the state from balancing the budget "on the backs" of school children. The Governor's proposal demonstrates why such a voter-approved protection was needed and why voters approved it. We urge every state legislator to reject the Governor's proposal to suspend the Proposition 98 funding guarantee.

Sincerely,



Adonai Mack, ACSA



Mike Ricketts, CCSESA



Debra Brown, CSBA



Pat Dingsdale, CA State PTA



Michelle Castro, SEIU



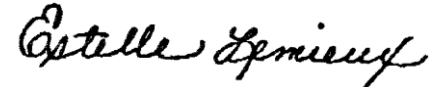
Dennis Meyers, CASBO



Jeff Freitas, CFT



Steve Henderson, CSEA



Estelle Lemieux, CTA