

Your Name
Your Address
San Diego, CA 92130

March 7, 2008

The Honorable Mark Wyland
Senator, 38th District
4066 State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249-0075

Dear Senator Wyland:

I am a PTA volunteer and (parent/grandparent/volunteer/teacher) of (# of children and or/grade level) at (name of school) in the Del Mar Union School District. I want you to know how deeply troubled I am by the Governor's proposal to cut education by \$4.8 billion and suspend Proposition 98. I join with the 80,000 PTA members in San Diego and Imperial Counties who respectfully request that you take all needed steps to prevent these cuts from happening.

Despite having high accountability standards, California already spends almost \$1900 less per student than the national average, and our student-to-staff ration is one of the highest in the country. How can a state with the 8th largest economy in the world be content to rank 46th nationally for education funding? Expecting our schools to do more with less simply defies logic and is fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement.

It doesn't take a budget expert to know that an estimated \$800 per student, these cuts will have a profoundly negative impact on our children. Just two weeks ago, the County Superintendent of Schools announced that the Governor's proposal would force at least half of the school districts in San Diego to file a qualified or negative certification because they would not be able to meet their financial obligations. At my children's school, these cuts would mean having to give up Art, Music and Science Education, as Del Mar Schools would face a reduced budget of at least \$600,000.

While it is clear that there are extraordinary challenges in balancing the state's budget, our students and schools did not create this budget problem, and their progress should not be undermined because of it. The Governor's proposal for across-the-board cuts and the suspension of Proposition 98 contradicts California voter's unwavering support for this minimum funding guarantee and their consistent ranking of public education at the top of their priority list.

A State budget proposal that looks at cuts alone is not a real solution. PTA believes all options need to be on the table, including revenue enhancements. The Legislature must find a long-term solution to California's roller coaster system of financing, and the chronic underfunding of our schools. Until we confront the downward spiral of our public education funding system, we risk not only the future of our children, but the future of the State's economy and its ability to compete in an increasingly competitive global environment.

When you campaigned for election, you expressed to your constituents that education was one of your top priorities. Your voting record has expressed this time and again. Now we need your help in keeping that promise to my (child/ren), and the six million children attending California's public schools.

Sincerely,

Type your name here and sign above