

January 21, 2009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: PLEASE OPPOSE ANY BUDGET CUTS TO EDUCATION

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed education cuts in California. While I am aware that we are witnessing a very serious budget crisis, it is nonetheless unacceptable to balance the State's budget at the expense of our children who represent the future of California.

Cutting education spending at such a time of crisis is very shortsighted. Indeed, if our state should be investing in anything, it is in the education of our children. They are the future wage earners and brain trust for our state. Families, teachers, and parent organizations are already working very hard to fill the existing budget gaps at our schools so that children get the education they deserve. Our resources simply cannot be stretched any farther. If budget cuts are made, our children, and eventually the future economy of our state, will be damaged irrevocably.

Despite the fact that California's economy is one of the ten largest in the world, our state ranks an appalling 47th in the U.S. in per pupil spending. Thirty years ago, our state ranked 7th in the nation. Cutting our inadequate education budget even further would very likely put us dead last in the country. This is simply unacceptable. We must prioritize the needs of children and education first!

I urge you to act as a strong advocate for children and education. Only then will we have a brighter future for our state.

Sincerely,

Parent at Thornhill Elementary School, Oakland, California