



# California State Legislature

## Joint Republican Caucus



April 10, 2012

Dear Student Leaders,

A few weeks ago, thousands of students marched at the State Capitol to protest reductions in state funding for higher education and to share how this affects you.

When certain lawmakers who have voted repeatedly to cut funding for the University of California, the California State University system, and the California Community Colleges tried to placate you with vague talk of believing in the importance of protecting education, you shouted **"Show us!"**

You have a right to be skeptical. The people of California have been presented with a false choice – that the only solution is to pass a November ballot initiative that raises taxes or our schools will have to suffer more cuts.

In fact, the tax increase initiative plan currently being promoted by the Governor and legislative Democrats does not provide any new funding for the California State University system, California Community Colleges or the University of California. Worse, it does not undo the reductions enacted by the Democrat majority in last year's state budget and does not guarantee new funding in the future.

Students are being used as political pawns to gain support for a tax plan. Even if the measure passes, students won't see any of the money for their campuses. If it fails, you will be the victims of further state funding reductions, with 97% of the proposed cuts by the Governor and Democrat members targeting K-12 and higher education. This will surely lead to additional tuition and fee increases. Students lose either way.

Targeting students is an unnecessary political ploy that deserves your anger and protest. To prove this point, we have proposed a "Roadmap to Protect Classrooms and Taxpayers," which provides \$4.4 billion in budget solutions to fund education.

Our proposal shows that we can prevent new trigger cuts to our public schools, colleges and universities regardless of whether new taxes are enacted.

We strongly believe that our roadmap is a responsible way to protect education funding, while providing enough financial certainty to stop California's public colleges from raising tuition and student fees.

Our proposal provides enough money to prevent the continued elimination of classes, allows community college students to transfer to a university, and protects the 25,000 enrollment slots that have been threatened for elimination.

The Governor and Democrat leaders should not hold teachers, students, and parents as hostages for a ballot initiative that does not provide any increased funding for schools, and may not be approved by the voters of California this November. That is not how we should treat our highest priority as a state.

You deserve better than to be victims of their proposed "trigger cuts," and the solutions we offer can balance the state budget, while protecting education.

You can find the details of this plan by visiting our "California Budget Fact Check" website at [www.cabudgetfactcheck.com](http://www.cabudgetfactcheck.com). We hope that you will support our efforts to make school funding a priority and prevent trigger cuts that affect you and students throughout the state.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Huff".

Bob Huff  
Senate Republican Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Connie Conway".

Connie Conway  
Assembly Republican Leader