



California Legislature

August 11, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The 2020-21 Budget Package provided assurances to maintain school funding based on a status-quo that no longer exists. As you know, changes were made to state law to “hold harmless” school funding based on prior year attendance. Unfortunately, this methodology does great harm by failing to recognize school growth – effectively placing a “cap” on funding based on 2019-20 attendance, even at schools serving more students in the 2020-21 school year.

Your signing message recognized the shortcoming in this funding methodology and indicated changes would be made to address attendance growth. As you work with the Legislature to implement those changes, it is imperative that the solution ensure funding for all attendance growth, regardless of whether that growth was “planned” or an unanticipated result of COVID-19.

One thing has become clear during the coronavirus pandemic; an effective response requires the ability to change course – to revise plans and adapt to changing circumstances and information. Schools and the families they serve know this better than anyone.

The coronavirus pandemic has created significant challenges and families are facing unprecedented uncertainty. Limiting their educational options by denying growth funding to schools is an unnecessary and unfair stressor. It strikes at the very heart of parent engagement, and disproportionately impacts families who do not have the resources to access alternative educational options or supports. We must provide schools with the resources needed to serve the students who are coming to them.

The impacts of COVID-19 have been dramatic and widespread, and our response and recovery efforts are continuing to evolve. The idea that funding will only be provided for “planned” growth ignores the inherent uncertainty that the coronavirus pandemic has created and the unforeseen circumstances that have resulted. It is incumbent upon us to recognize enrollment and attendance changes, and provide funding based on where the children are being served.

Education is non-negotiable and schools are essential – teachers and school employees are on the front lines, preparing to serve families and children throughout the state at the start of this school year. It

would be unconscionable and inherently inequitable to deny funding to schools who have stepped up to the challenge to serve students at this time.

We the undersigned stand committed to work with you and our state's education leaders to fulfill the state's constitutional obligation to a quality education, and equality of educational opportunity.

Sincerely,



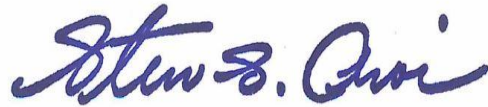
Ling Ling Chang
29th Senate District



Marie Waldron, Assembly Republican Leader
75th Assembly District



Shannon Grove, Senate Republican Leader
16th Senate District



Dr. Steven Choi
68th Assembly District



Scott Wilk
21st Senate District



Jordan Cunningham
35th Assembly District



Patricia C. Bates
36th Senate District



Megan Dahle
1st Assembly District



Mike Morrell
23rd Senate District



Randy Vopel
71st Assembly District



Brian Dahle
1st Senate District



Jim Patterson
23rd Assembly District



Brian Jones
38th Senate District



Kevin Kiley
6th Assembly District



Melissa A. Melendez
28th Senate District



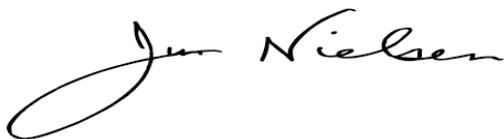
Devon Mathis
26th Assembly District



John M. W. Moorlach
37th Senate District



Jay Obernolte
33rd Assembly District



Jim Nielsen
4th Senate District



Thomas Lackey
36th Assembly District



Andreas Borgeas
8th Senate District



Heath Flora
12th Assembly District



William "Bill" Brough
73rd Assembly District



James Gallagher
3rd Assembly District



Vince Fong
34th Assembly District