

**Your Name**  
**Your Address**  
**Your City, CA ZIP**

April 8, 2008

The Honorable Joel Anderson  
Assemblymember, 77<sup>th</sup> District  
2111 State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 319-2177

Dear Assemblymember Anderson,

[I am a PTA volunteer and (parent/grandparent/volunteer/teacher) of (# of children or grade level) at (elementary/middle/high) school in the (name) school district. – **Only use if you are a parent and or PTA member**]

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 respectfully request that you take all needed steps to prevent these cuts from happening.

Despite having high accountability standards, California already spends almost \$1,900 less per student than the national average, and our student-to-staff ratio 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 at an estimated \$800 per student, these cuts will have a profoundly negative impact on our children. At my children's school, these cuts would mean (insert the likely impact at your children's school or school district)

While it is clear 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. 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 our 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. Now we need your help in keeping that promise to my children and the six million children attending California's public schools.

Sincerely,

Type your name here and sign above