

The Honorable  
California State  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear

As a parent of a public school student and a constituent in your legislative district, I am asking you to reject any proposals to balance the budget with more cuts to public schools - even if the special election ballot measures fail to pass on May 19. I am writing to ask you to think about children FIRST in considering solutions to the state budget crisis.

Please know that I understand the magnitude of the current financial crisis. Families throughout California are living each day with the realities of the economic downturn. But families also understand we all have a responsibility to children.

There are tough decisions to be made. But please understand – California's responsibility to children cannot be compromised in bad economic times. **Our students and schools did not create this budget problem and fixing it should not come at the expense of their educational progress.**

California is now 47th in the nation in terms of how much we invest in the education of each student. Your decisions on the budget will:

- Determine if we move forward or backward in our commitment to the future.
- Determine whether we abandon quality schools for our children.
- Determine if tomorrow's workers have the skills they need.

That's how much is at stake.

**The smartest economic recovery plan for California is to invest in children.**

Sincerely,