

*The
Education
Coalition*

Working together to support and
improve California's public schools

**Association of California School
Administrators (ACSA)**
representing more than 16,000 school
administrators

**California Association Of School
Business Officials (CASBO)**
representing more than 4,000 school finance
and administrative managers

**California County
Superintendents Educational
Services Association (CCSESA)**
representing all 58 county superintendents
throughout California

**California Federation of
Teachers (CFT-AFLCIO)**
representing nearly 90,000 education
employees

**California School Boards
Association (CSBA)**
representing nearly 1,000 K-12 school districts
and county offices of education throughout
California

**California School Employees
Association (CSEA)**
representing more than 230,000 classified
school employees

California State PTA
representing more than one million parents,
teachers, and students in California

**California Teachers Association
(CTA)**
representing over 325,000 educators

**Service Employees International
Union (SEIU)**
representing more than 50,000 school
employees in California

**Legislative Consultants:
Peter Birdsall**
916.719.1315

February 4, 2010

The Honorable Karen Bass
The Honorable John Perez
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

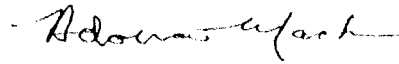
Dear Assembly Members Bass and Perez:

On behalf of the organizations in the Education Coalition, we are writing to alert you to our very strong concerns about a legislative package that reportedly is under development. According to a recent article in Capitol Weekly, "legislative democrats" are working on a plan that would replace revenues from the sales tax on gasoline with revenues from an excise tax on gasoline. The article specifically notes that this shift would reduce State General Fund revenues and therefore reduce the Proposition 98 funding for school districts and community colleges.

From an education perspective, such a proposal would mimic the Governor's proposal to manipulate revenues in order to make more cuts to public education. We will vigorously oppose any such proposal that fails to protect education from more cuts.

The fact is that the vast majority of the current state budget problems result from past budget "solutions" that the state has been unable to implement. In contrast, the cuts to schools approved by the Legislature and the Governor have been made. Schools have already suffered \$17 billion in cuts through past budget actions. It is not fair and it is not right to redefine revenues in order to allow deeper cuts to public education. We urge you to protect education funding in any legislative package that is developed to resolve the issue of transit funding.

Sincerely,




Adonai Mack, ACSA



Mike Ricketts, CCSESA



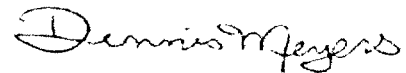
Debra Brown, CSBA



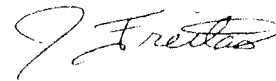
Debbie Look, PTA



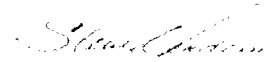
Michelle Castro, SEIU



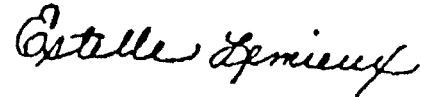
Dennis Meyers, CASBO



Jeff Freitas, CFT



Steve Henderson, CSEA



Estelle Lemieux, CTA