

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Kevin de León
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President pro Tem de León and Speaker Atkins:

We respectfully request support for a long overdue increase to the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program, augmenting the funding by \$54 million in 2015/16 to raise the daily rate from \$7.50 per student to \$8.50 per student and establishing an annual cost of living adjustment beginning in the 2017/18 fiscal year.

After school programs operate at high poverty schools with an average free and reduced lunch program of over 80%. They provide elementary and middle school children with:

- Access to academic learning and enrichment programs while their parents work until 6pm.
- A safe place that keeps them off the streets during one of the high crime periods of the day.

ASES programs are funded by Proposition 98 and have not had a rate increase in nearly a decade. The proposed augmentation will allow programs to keep their doors open and deliver expanded learning activities to low-income students with the highest needs and fewest resources. This cost-effective request is less than 1/10 of 1% of Proposition 98 funding.

Proposition 49 was passed by the citizens of California in 2002. It provides a continuous appropriation of \$550 million to programs at over 4,000 schools serving more than 400,000 students daily. The funding level has not been increased since fiscal year 2006/07. Since 2006 the cost of living has risen 17% and increases to the minimum wage and benefits (such as mandatory sick leave) have increased personnel costs.

ASES programs are funded according to a set ADA formula. They provide at least 3 hours of daily program. They are required to provide rigorous academic content, as well as a broad array of enrichment activities designed to complement core day instruction, with a student-to-staff ratio of not more than 20:1. Research has shown that these programs have a range of positive impacts including higher graduation rates, improved school attendance, English fluency, academic achievement, health and nutrition, and important social-emotional skill development. They are essential for student success, yet providers are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain high-quality services as costs outpace grant revenues. Providers have been forced to reduce staffing hours, limit professional development, cut back on specialized instruction, and in some cases simply close their programs. Without additional funding, they are in very real jeopardy of being squeezed out of existence, putting the physical safety and academic achievements of thousands of our most vulnerable students at risk.

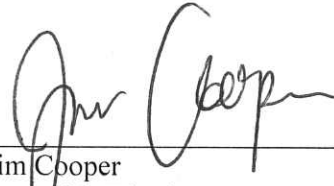
We thank you for considering our request.



Sincerely,



Loni Hancock
Senate District 9



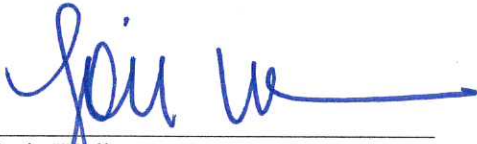
Jim Cooper
Assembly District 9



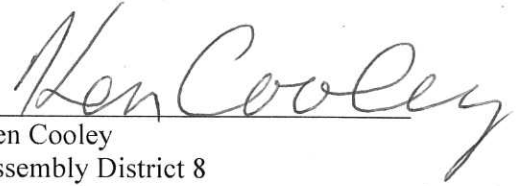
Mike McGuire
Senate District 2



Bill Dodd
Assembly District 4



Lois Wolk
Senate District 3



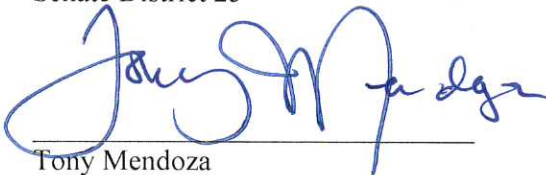
Ken Cooley
Assembly District 8



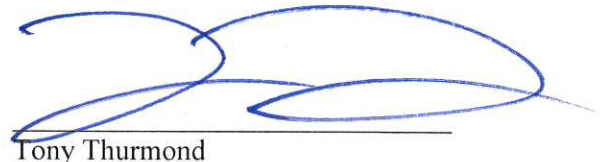
Carol Liu
Senate District 25



Marc Levine
Assembly District 10



Tony Mendoza
Senate District 32



Tony Thurmond
Assembly District 15



Rob Bonta
Assembly District 18



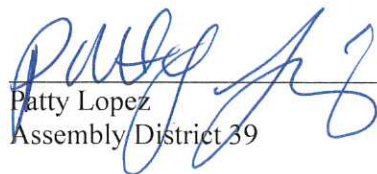
Evan Low
Assembly District 28



Mark Stone
Assembly District 29



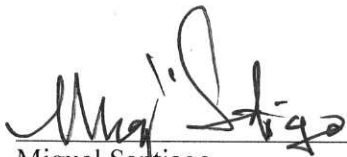
Rudy Salas
Assembly District 32



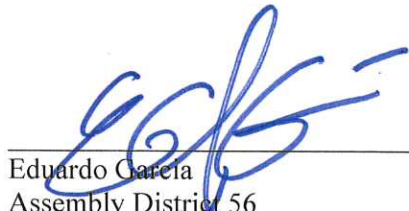
Patty Lopez
Assembly District 39



Mike Gatto
Assembly District 43



Miguel Santiago
Assembly District 53



Eduardo Carera
Assembly District 56



Ian Calderon
Assembly District 57



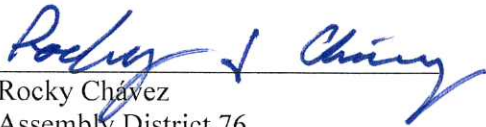
Autumn Burke
Assembly District 62



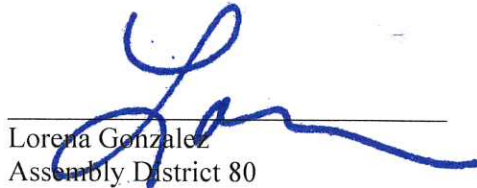
Anthony Rendon
Assembly District 63



Tom Daly
Assembly District 69



Rocky Chavez
Assembly District 76



Lorena Gonzalez
Assembly District 80