

# 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.

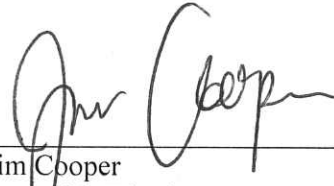
We thank you for considering our request.



Sincerely,



Loni Hancock  
Senate District 9



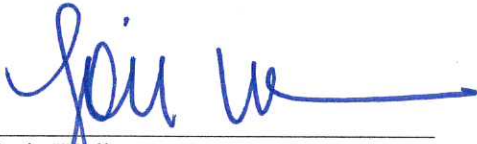
Jim Cooper  
Assembly District 9



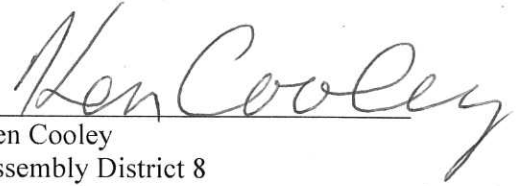
Mike McGuire  
Senate District 2



Bill Dodd  
Assembly District 4



Lois Wolk  
Senate District 3



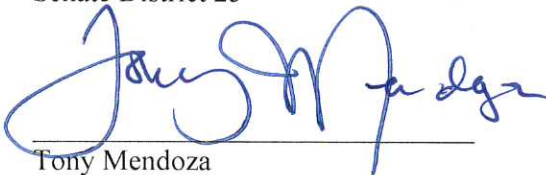
Ken Cooley  
Assembly District 8



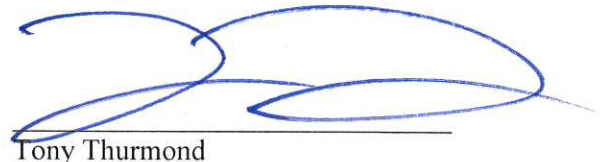
Carol Liu  
Senate District 25



Marc Levine  
Assembly District 10



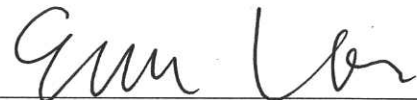
Tony Mendoza  
Senate District 32



Tony Thurmond  
Assembly District 15



Rob Bonta  
Assembly District 18



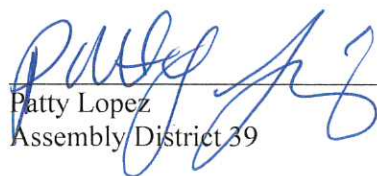
Evan Low  
Assembly District 28



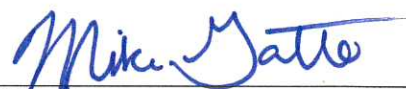
Mark Stone  
Assembly District 29



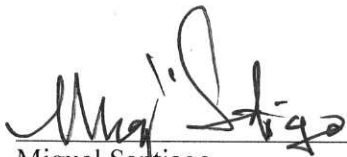
Rudy Salas  
Assembly District 32



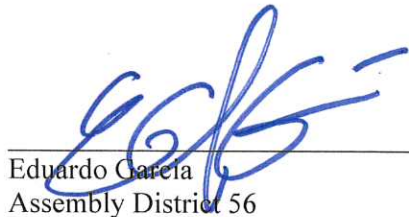
Patty Lopez  
Assembly District 39



Mike Gatto  
Assembly District 43



Miguel Santiago  
Assembly District 53



Eduardo Carera  
Assembly District 56



Ian Calderon  
Assembly District 57



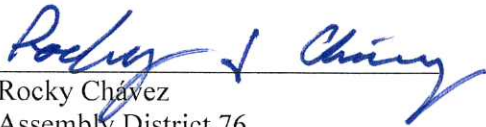
Autumn Burke  
Assembly District 62



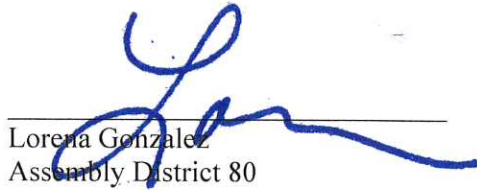
Anthony Rendon  
Assembly District 63



Tom Daly  
Assembly District 69



Rocky Chavez  
Assembly District 76



Lorena Gonzalez  
Assembly District 80