



PTA Members Tell Legislators: We Must Invest in California's Children!

Executive Officers

Joan Laursen
President

Kim Chew
Executive Vice President

Angela Ramirez Holmes
Vice President
Communication

Carla Butler
Vice President
Education Advocacy

Tina LaDue
Secretary

Amy Williford
Treasurer

Eileen Armstrong
Auditor

Felicia Goldhawk
Parliamentarian

Diane Van Wagner
Reflections

Ruth Loewenhardt
Wellness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2009

Contact: Joan Laursen
925-462-7994

PTA members met with legislators in Sacramento on February 24, 2009, to discuss the Emergency Spending Plan signed by the Governor on February 20, 2009 and its impact on children and families. PTA believes the smartest economic stimulus plan is to invest in the future by investing in the health, education, and welfare of children.

Local PTA volunteers Joan Laursen, Debbie Look, and Jamie Hintzke met with Assembly members Joan Buchanan, Alberto Torrico, and Mary Hayashi as well as with Senator Ellen Corbett's staff and asked them to support SCA 6 (Simitian), which would place a measure on the statewide ballot to lower the threshold to 55 percent supermajority to pass local parcel taxes. Local school districts would be more likely to be successful in passing local revenue measures in support of their schools. In the absence of adequate funding from Sacramento, communities should have every opportunity to take action locally.

Pam Brady, California State PTA President, urged PTAs throughout California: "Help all legislators understand the truly untenable choices this budget forces local school districts to make, such as choosing between providing small class sizes, arts and science programs, nurses, counselors and teachers, and other vital instructional support. All California students deserve a top quality educational program that includes all of these components, but this state budget does not enable schools to deliver on that promise."

PTA supports AB 8 (Brownley) which would convene a working group to make findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 1, 2010, regarding restructuring California's school finance system. "California State PTA will continue to urge legislators and the Governor to develop a farsighted budget plan and process – a plan with vision, a plan that is a reflection of the hopes and dreams of the next generation, and a plan that is truly focused on the future of our state," Brady said.

The legislative visits were part of the California State PTA's three-day Legislation Conference February 22-24, 2009. Some of the speakers at the conference included:

- Rachel Ehlers, Legislative Analyst's Office
- Michael Genest, Director of Finance
- Mark Leno, Senator
- Rick Miller, Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education
- John Mockler & Mary Perry of EdSource
- Roger Niello, Assembly Member
- Gloria Romero, Senate Majority Leader
- Jean Ross, California Budget Project