

California Legislature

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: After School Education and Safety Budget Request

Dear Budget Chairs,

We respectfully submit this request for a \$76,300,000 increase in annual funding for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program, beginning in the 2018-19 fiscal year. We also request that funding for the ASES program be raised in subsequent fiscal years to account for ensuing minimum wage increases.

As you know, in 2002 voters passed Proposition 49 which made a commitment to provide funding for before and after school programs throughout California. Today, California's ASES program operates in over 4,200 elementary and middle schools across the state, serving more than 400,000 students daily. Despite increases in the state minimum wage (38%) and cost of living (25%), until 2017 the state had not increased the budget for ASES since 2006. As a result, ASES programs are stretched to their breaking point. Last year's \$50 million increase provided needed relief, but was only enough to raise the Average Daily Attendance rates for ASES by 9%, from \$7.50 to \$8.19. By comparison, over the same time frame, Prop. 98 K-12 funding has increased 38%, including the proposed increases in the Governor's 2018-19 Budget. ASES program costs will continue to rise as the minimum wage rises from \$11 to \$12 on January 1, 2019, marking a 50% increase in the state minimum wage since the first full year of ASES implementation.

ASES programs provide students with academic and enrichment activities, keep kids safely off the streets, and offer necessary child care for working families. Research shows that after school programs provide a variety of benefits to students including improved school attendance, English fluency, academic success, crime prevention, and social-emotional skill development. In addition to these social and academic benefits, ASES programs save the state \$2 to \$9 for every \$1 invested.

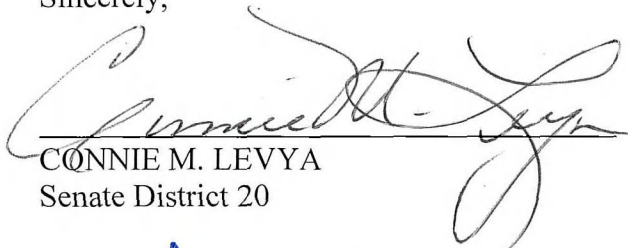
These programs also provide quality child care to underserved families and academic programs to some of California's neediest students. ASES programs serve families in low-income, high poverty areas over 80 percent of ASES students qualify for free or reduced-price meal programs.

According to a December field survey, representing more than 215 school districts, if funding does not increase over the next two years, nearly a quarter of ASES programs in the state could close their doors within two years, denying access to approximately 91,000 students.

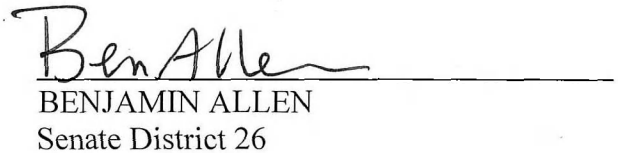
This dramatic reduction in access will leave tens of thousands of students without much needed educational enrichment opportunities and thousands of working families without childcare that they can afford. It is critical for the success of our students, families, and the state that we continue to support after school programs and California's highest need students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Nicholas Romo at 916-651-4020.

We thank you for your favorable consideration of our request.


Sincerely,



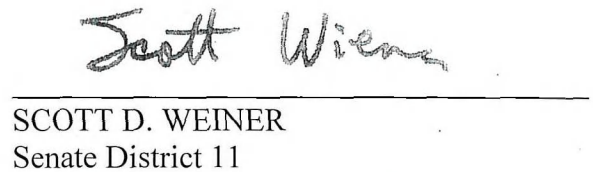
CONNIE M. LEVYA
Senate District 20



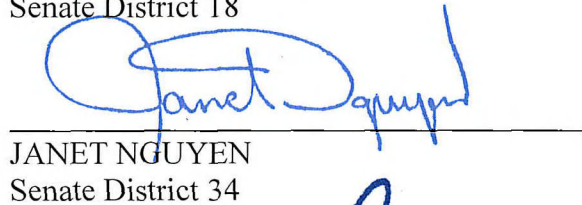
BENJAMIN ALLEN
Senate District 26



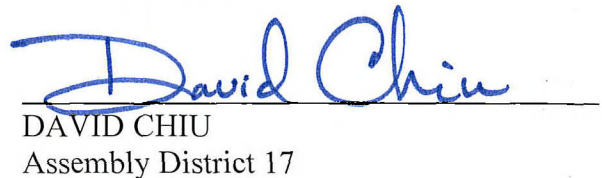
ROBERT M. HERTZBERG
Senate District 18



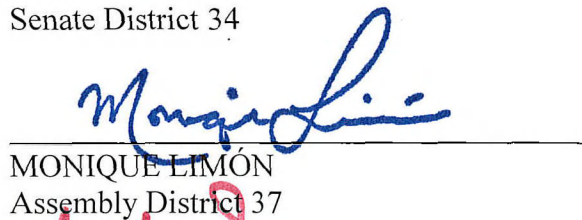
SCOTT D. WEINER
Senate District 11



JANET NGUYEN
Senate District 34



DAVID CHIU
Assembly District 17



MONIQUE LIMÓN
Assembly District 37



MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assembly District 53



MIKE A. GIPSON
Assembly District 64



LORENA GONZALEZ FLETCHER
Assembly District 80

Ken Cooley AD8

Rudy SALAS AD32

Albie SD14

Bill Dodd SD3

W. J. Allen AD51

Jan AD49