

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 9581

Dr. Glen W. Thomas
Secretary of Education
State of California
1121 L Street Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 9581

The Honorable Jack O'Connell
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
130 N Street
Sacramento, CA 9581

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger, Secretary Thomas, and Superintendent O'Connell:

We write to express our concern about a reported misunderstanding regarding who should decide how local educational agencies spend State Fiscal Stabilization Funds allocated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). It has been suggested that the state has some ability to intercept Stabilization Fund dollars. It does not – and we would like to clarify that **it is the intent of Congress** that local educational agencies may determine how they will use Stabilization Funds and that resources are allocated from the state to school districts and institutions of higher education as soon as possible.

The purpose of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund is to help stabilize local government budgets, to minimize or avoid harmful cuts to education programs and services, to keep teachers in the classroom, and to support modernization, renovation, and repair of school facilities. It is imperative that local educational agencies receive stimulus funds as soon as possible so they can appropriately adjust their budgets to address these challenges.

Thousands of California teachers will be laid off in coming weeks without the infusion of ARRA funds. We implore you to provide for the immediate needs of the state's already cash-strapped schools by taking all available steps to prevent these layoffs. It has been brought to our attention that there may be unresolved issues at the state level about the administration and allocation of the federal ARRA funds that could delay distribution. We encourage you to address these issues quickly. The U.S. Department of Education stands ready to provide technical assistance to you in these matters.

Timely allocation of federal education funding and local determination of how the funds are used is consistent with the intent of the ARRA, which requires states to allocate money to local educational agencies as quickly as possible. Any delay in

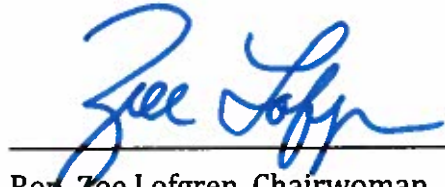
funding local educational agencies may have dire consequences for children and teachers in our great state.

Thank you for your prompt attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Rep. George Miller, Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee



Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Chairwoman
California Democratic Delegation



Rep. Mike Honda



Rep. Mike Thompson



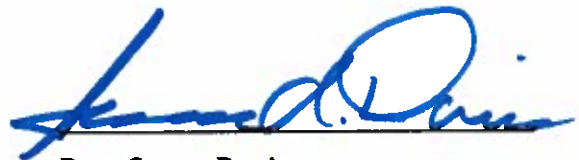
Rep. Howard Berman



Rep. Lois Capps



Rep. Jim Costa



Rep. Susan Davis



Rep. Anna Eshoo



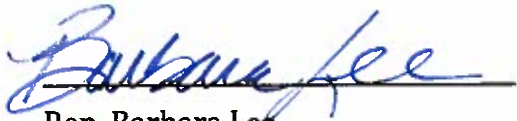
Rep. Sam Farr



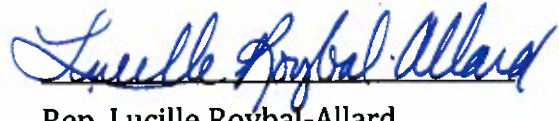
Rep. Bob Filner



Rep. Jane Harman



Rep. Barbara Lee



Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard



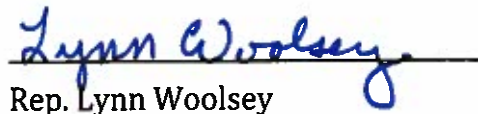
Rep. Ellen Tauscher



Rep. Diane Watson



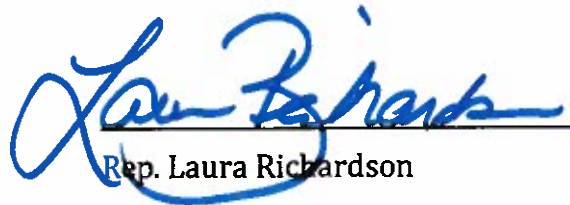
Rep. Henry Waxman



Rep. Lynn Woolsey



Rep. Grace Napolitano



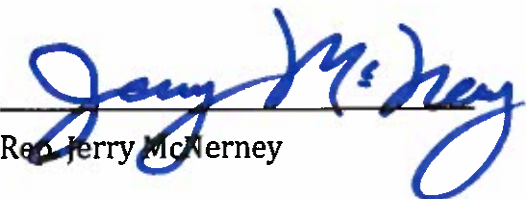
Rep. Laura Richardson



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Rep. Loretta Sanchez



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Rep. Jackie Speier


Rep. Doris Matsui


Rep. Pete Stark