



Dear Senator Bates,

I am a constituent of yours and I have some concerns. I am a member of the Capistrano Unified Council of PTSA (CUCPTSA) which represents more than 21,000 members from 54 schools' Parent Teacher (Student) Association (PTA/PTSA) units in Capistrano Unified School District. PTA's primary goal is to advocate on behalf of our students with one united voice for student educational opportunities, welfare, and mental health protections.

As you know, our school district is facing very bleak predictions about the financial impact of COVID-19 on our state's budget directly affecting our schools and our children. Our school district estimates that the budget impact will be about a \$35.5 million cut which will have devastating effects like teacher and staff layoffs, furlough days, and reduction or elimination of important programs like music and art.

COVID-19 has reminded us all that school districts provide much more than academics for our children and communities. They provide free meals to children with food insecurities, mental health support, computers, hot spots and in some cases wifi access to students. Schools provide a safe place for students to spend their days so parents can work.

We are requesting your support in the following areas:

- CUCPTSA is requesting the federal government's help in the form of an additional \$175 billion in federal funding for education across the nation. We acknowledge that the CARES act provided grants to states totaling \$30.75 billion through the Education Stabilization Fund, but the reality is it's simply not enough. We would appreciate your support in reaching out to our Congressional leaders of districts 45, 48, and 49 in asking them to prioritize funding for education and to minimize any cuts to education dollars.
- CUCPTSA applauds your responsiveness to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic and we request that same responsiveness in the budget for education next year.
- The state cannot use the Prop 98 formula to determine school funding for next year because it will cut funding so significantly that our school district will not be able to provide the basic educational needs of our students. Prop 98 is already a minimum guarantee and we cannot treat it like a cap on school funding especially in these dire circumstances.
- Maintain Special Education funding where it is this year, next year as well.

In closing, please make funding schools your priority. On behalf of our 47,000 students, I appreciate your time and look forward to continued conversations with you.

Sincerely,