

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2009

Members of the Board
Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Honorable Board Members:

We write as members of the Los Angeles Delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives to encourage you to delay any action that would result in layoffs among Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) personnel at this time.

We fully recognize that you must deal with a budget shortfall and make every effort to balance your budget. However, we have worked very hard to make certain that support for our nation's public schools was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which was passed by Congress and then signed into law by the President last month to stimulate our economy. For example, the ARRA establishes a \$53.6 billion State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which can be used to restore state education cuts, prevent teacher layoffs, prevent other education cutbacks, and renovate public schools, among other purposes. We are hopeful that you will examine the possibilities of reducing your budget shortfall with resources provided by this economic recovery package, and we offer you our assistance in doing so.

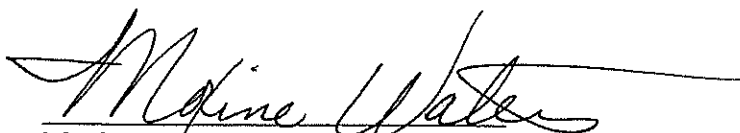
We are living in a time of tremendous economic uncertainty. If personnel were to lose their jobs now, they would face an extremely difficult job market. California employers led the nation in mass layoffs in February as the state's unemployment rate hit 10.5%, the highest level since April of 1983, state and federal labor agencies reported recently. California lost 116,000 jobs in February, bringing the 12-month total to 605,900. Unemployment in Los Angeles County increased by a slightly larger margin, to 10.9% in February from a revised 10.4% in January and 6.1% a year earlier.

Education must be our number one priority. Today's learners are indeed tomorrow's leaders. The personnel who are responsible for the education of our children must be supported in every way possible. The dedicated teachers, cafeteria workers, clerical workers, and custodians of LAUSD deserve nothing less.

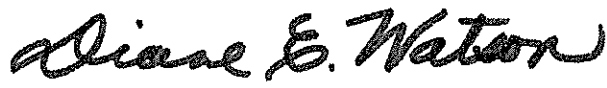
Respecting the difficult situation you are in, we call upon you to delay any actions that would cause the layoffs of any personnel at this difficult time. We should not jeopardize the education of our children by laying off dedicated and experienced personnel without considering every possible alternative.

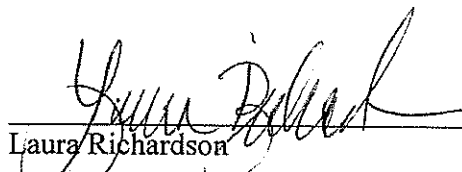
Therefore, we support the resolution offered by Supervisor Marguerite Lamont, and we urge you to pass this resolution. We look forward to working with you to support the personnel who educate the children of Los Angeles.

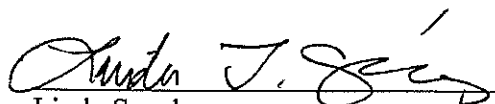
Sincerely,

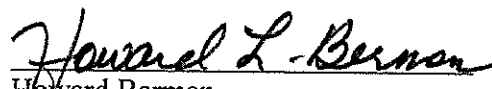

Maxine Waters

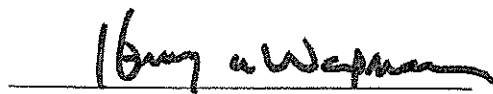

Lucille Roybal-Allard

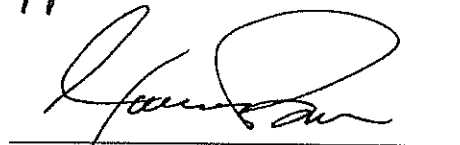

Diane Watson

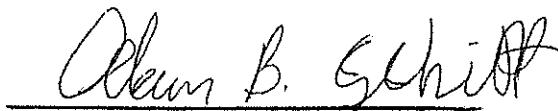

Laura Richardson


Linda Sanchez


Howard Berman


Henry Waxman


Xavier Becerra


Albin B. Schmitt

cc: Ramon C. Cortines, Superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District