

**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  
1 30 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.

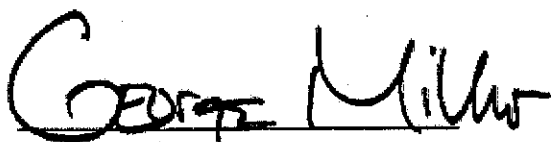
Thousands of California teachers will be laid off in coming weeks without the infusion of ARRA funds. We implore you to provide for the immediate needs of the state's already cash-strapped schools by taking all available steps to prevent these layoffs. It has been brought to our attention that there 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

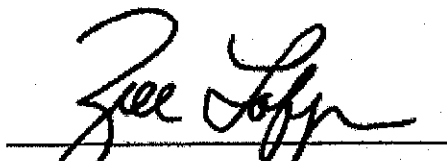
funding local educational agencies may have dire consequences for children and teachers in our great state.

Thank you for your prompt attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Rep. George Miller, Chairman  
House Education and Labor Committee



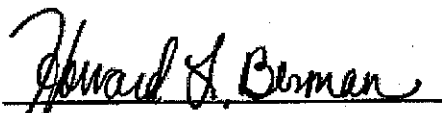
Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Chairwoman  
California Democratic Delegation



Rep. Mike Honda



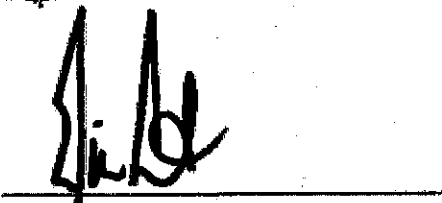
Rep. Mike Thompson



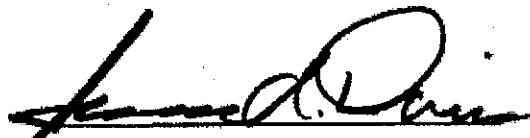
Rep. Howard Berman



Rep. Lois Capps



Rep. Jim Costa



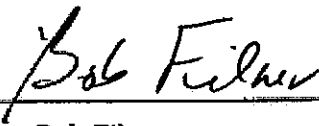
Rep. Susan Davis




Rep. Anna Eshoo

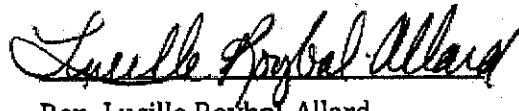


Rep. Sam Farr

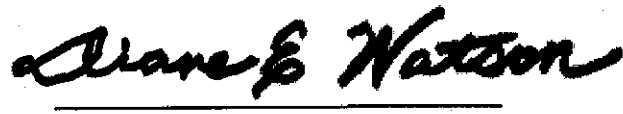
  
Rep. Bob Filner

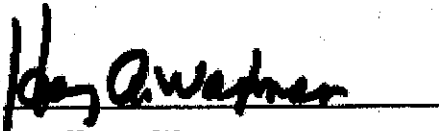
  
Rep. Jane Harman

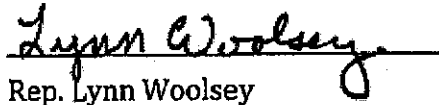
  
Rep. Barbara Lee

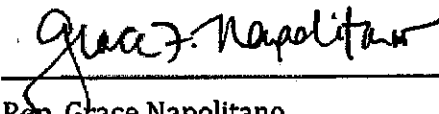
  
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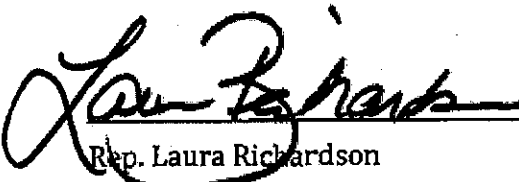
  
Rep. Ellen Tauscher

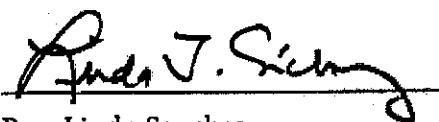
  
Rep. Diane Watson

  
Rep. Henry Waxman

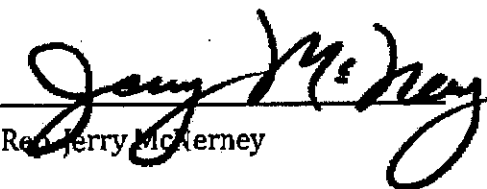
  
Rep. Lynn Woolsey

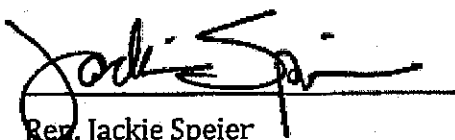
  
Rep. Grace Napolitano

  
Rep. Laura Richardson

  
Rep. Linda Sanchez

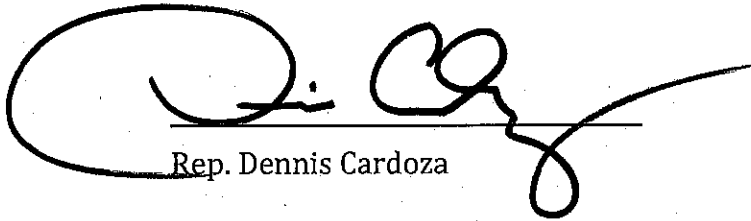
  
Rep. Loretta Sanchez

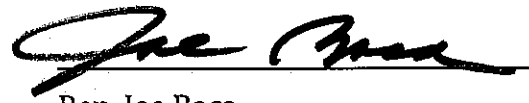
  
Rep. Jerry McNerney

  
Rep. Jackie Speier

  
Rep. Doris Matsui

  
Rep. Pete Stark

  
Rep. Dennis Cardoza

  
Rep. Joe Baca