

Proposed Budget Attempts to Repeal Proposition 49

Act Now to Protect After-School Programs

Passed overwhelmingly in 2002, Proposition 49 created thousands of new after-school programs and guaranteed that ongoing funding would not be subject to political whims. Yet, budget language recently approved by the Legislature's Budget Conference Committee attempts to essentially repeal Proposition 49 and its commitment to after-school funding.

- ✓ **Repeal would threaten thousands of existing after-school programs.**
 - *3,830 elementary and middle schools now offer state-funded after-school programs*, thanks to \$550 million in After School Education and Safety funding guaranteed by Proposition 49.
 - The programs serve up to *400,000 primarily low-income students* in safe, nurturing environments with academic and enrichment activities, and allow working families to be gainfully employed knowing their children are safe and under the care and direct supervision of a responsible adult.

- ✓ **The threat to after-school programs is real.**
 - The conference committee budget would submit an initiative to the voters to *repeal Proposition 49's commitment to after-school funding*. It would allow the Legislature to substantially reduce after-school funding, or eliminate the state's after-school program altogether.
 - The proposed November 2008 initiative has already been approved by the Budget Conference Committee, although changes are still possible during ongoing budget negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor.

- ✓ **A tough budget does not justify a new initiative.**
 - The initiative won't solve the budget shortfall. After school is just ½ of 1 percent of the state budget. More importantly, *the initiative would not result in even one dollar of savings in the 2008-09 budget year*.
 - Voters already made clear, when they enacted Proposition 49 in 2002 in the wake of a \$24 billion budget shortfall that was larger than today's, that after school needs to be a high budget priority and deserves special protection from cuts. It would be a waste of resources to return this issue to the ballot.

- ✓ **How you can help:**
 - (1) *Call your legislators* to urge them to oppose including an initiative in the budget.
 - (2) *Fax a letter to legislative leaders* who are leading budget negotiations and a copy to the Governor (see sample letter with contact information at http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/AS_Sample_Letter.doc)
 - (3) Fax a copy of letters to Fight Crime: Invest in Kids at (510) 836-2121.

To find out how you can contact your legislators, see <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>. Let your legislators know about after-school funding in their districts, available at <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/node/6100>.

If you have questions, please contact Brian Lee at Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *California* (blee@calfightcrime.org) or Kimberly Mundhenk at Children Now (kMundhenk@ChildrenNow.org).