



JOSE HUIZAR  
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

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### COUNCILMEMBER HUIZAR LEADS CITY COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED STATE EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS

**LOS ANGELES (March 4, 2008)** – Councilmember José Huizar, today secured unanimous City Council approval of a resolution expressing their opposition to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s request to cut public education funding by \$460 million this year and up to \$4.8 billion next year due to the state’s budgetary shortfall.

“The resolution urges Gov. Schwarzenegger to seriously consider the devastating effects these cuts would have on the education of students, its severe long-term consequences and consider other means of stabilizing the state budget,” said Councilmember José Huizar.

As former Board President of LAUSD, the Councilmember witnessed significant reductions to the public education budget, but nothing like what has been proposed by the Governor this year.

“We all know and understand that we need to make tough choices. However, we cannot balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable: our children. Our children’s education and future is worth more than the proposed cuts.”

“We have heard from the Los Angeles Unified School District that the cut to the District – a total of \$460 million -- would be the equivalent of closing 22 high schools, firing 5,750 employees, or instituting an 8 percent pay cut for all employees. This is completely unacceptable.”

Governor’s Schwarzenegger’s proposed public education cuts are in violation of Proposition 98 guarantees approved by the voters, which establishes a minimum annual funding level for elementary through high schools and community colleges. The proposed public education budget is 6.7 percent below the minimum guarantee for the 2008-2009 fiscal years.

In addition to the proposed education cuts, related programs such as special education, nutrition, and supplemental school counseling programs would suffer from a \$414 million funding reduction.

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