

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, June 2017

Details are in the June issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- President Trump's proposed federal budget for the next fiscal year includes \$9.2 billion in cuts to public education. National PTA objects to this and to a proposal in the budget that would allow public dollars to be used for private and religious school tuition. PTA also objects to a proposal that would allow Title I funds to follow a child to any public school
- On the positive side, the president's budget maintains funding for special education and for Title I, which assists schools with high percentages of low income students.
- Creativity is a very important part of the educational process. We should make sure our schools include arts education.
- Since January, when Governor Brown released his first budget proposal, more tax revenues have come in than expected, so the governor's May revise budget has a 5.4 percent increase in education funding. He would expand the state preschool program by about 3,000 students and would give \$1 billion in one-time money to school districts.
- On the negative side, most of the additional funding that school districts would get will go to higher payments to the state retirement system for teachers and other school employees. Even with the increase, all of the state's school districts will not be back to pre-recession funding levels. If Congress approves the president's budget, California would lose \$400 million in education funding.
- A high school PTSA in Fourth District offered grants to its student groups. The students filled out applications and presented their proposals to the PTSA. It was a great way to teach the students to advocate for their school programs.
- Do we have advocacy in our PTA budget for next year? We should think about what expenses we might have.

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