

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JANUARY 2012

CAPTA Backs Initiative to Increase School Funding

"Californians see something really scary happening: An entire generation of children is being denied the public education program they need to succeed in the workforce and in life," said California State PTA President Carol Kocivar. "We cannot let this happen."

This is why CAPTA has decided to back the *Our Children, Our Future Act*, an education funding initiative. PTA is playing a part in crafting the ballot measure language and will be a major participant in the signature gathering effort to qualify the measure for the November 2012 ballot.

The proposal was developed by Molly Munger, a civil rights attorney and longtime education activist who is also providing financial backing for the project.

What would the initiative do?

The initiative would raise about \$10 billion a year in new revenues. All of this revenue would be placed in a separate trust fund, with 85 percent of the funding allocated on a per-pupil basis to all public schools, including charter schools. The remaining 15 percent would be used to raise standards and expand access to public preschool and early childhood programs. The governor and legislature would be prohibited from using the trust fund or directing how it is spent and the revenue could not be used to replace Prop. 98 or any other current funding. Any revenues that exceed the rate of growth of California per capita personal



Carol Kocivar
CAPTA President

income will be used to help service and pay down existing state education bond debt, ensuring California's ability to issue new bonds, as needed, to build and modernize school and early education facilities.

Munger has proposed an alternate version of the initiative that would implement the program in two phases. During the first four years, 30 percent of new revenues would be used to reduce the state debt, freeing up general fund money for other state services. Sixty percent of the

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Calendar of Events

California State PTA Legislative Conference

February 6 and 7 in Sacramento

Conference registration: \$165 for adults, \$75 for students

Hotel: \$179 per night

More information and registration at: www.capta.org

Jan. 20 Advocacy Roundtable CANCELLED

Please attend the exciting and important Initiative Event on February 15 instead (below).

Our Children, Our Future Initiative Event

Wednesday, February 15, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Clifton C. Miller Community Center

300 Centennial Way, Tustin 92780

★All PTA members are urged to attend.

Sacramento Safari Orientation

Friday, March 16, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley 92708

★All Safari participants should attend.

Sacramento Safari

March 26 and 27 in Sacramento

More information and registration at:

www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Reminder: It's Time to Register for Sacramento Safari, March 26-27

Sacramento Safari is a terrific opportunity to learn about education issues and advocate for children in our state capitol. If you plan to attend, you should ask your unit or council to vote to appoint you as a representative and approve the expenditure of funds.

The registration deadline is Friday March 2, or whenever the capacity of 100 participants is reached.

To register, please go to www.fourthdistrictpta.org and find Sacramento Safari under the Advocacy menu.

The registration form and emergency form can be submitted on-line (preferred) or by mail, but your registration will not be complete until your check is received at the Fourth District PTA Office.

We look forward to sharing this exciting two-day event with you!

California State PTA Supports Proposal to Boost Education Funding

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funding would go to K-12 schools and 10 percent to early education. Beginning in 2017-18, all of the funding would go to education. Munger has indicated that she will back the version of the initiative that gets the most support.

How would the new funding be used?

Schools would be required to use the funding to provide a well-rounded education that supports college and career readiness for every student, including a high-quality curriculum that includes the arts; music; physical education; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); and vocational and technical education courses.

The money also could be used for smaller class sizes, school libraries, librarians, school nurses and counselors.

Schools could use no more than one percent of the trust funding on administrative costs and would not be allowed to use the funds to increase salaries or benefits.

What would be the source of the funding?

The initiative would raise the new revenue through a sliding scale income tax increase that varies with taxpayers' ability to pay, with the highest income earners contributing the most. The scale ranges from 0.4 percent for couples with income under \$35,000 after all deductions, up to 2.2 percent for couples with incomes over \$5 million after all deductions.

For example, a family filing a joint return with \$75,000 in income after all deductions would pay an additional \$428 each year, while a family with \$750,000 in income after all deductions would pay \$12,516 more. Families filing with incomes under \$14,632 (after all deductions) would be exempt.

The tax will end after 12 years, unless voters decide to extend it.

How did State PTA decide to back this initiative?

CAPTA conducted a statewide survey that indicated nine out of 10 state PTA members rated "adequate school funding" as extremely important – the highest response by far to any policy issue.

The survey also showed that PTA members believe more funding is needed to restore the arts, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and physical education; as well as to reduce class sizes and add back counselors, school libraries, and librarians.

After looking at several proposals, the CAPTA Board of Managers voted to support the *Our Children, Our Future Act* because it is "the boldest and most thoughtful proposal out there," said Kocivar. It would generate substantial new revenues that can only be used to improve public schools. Local parents, educators and staff would decide how the money is spent at each school. Schools and districts would be required to report how the funding is spent and how this improves educational outcomes.

The initiative would focus on closing the achievement gap by providing additional per-student funding for low-income children and English language learners, and by supporting early childhood education.

Our Children Need Better Schools NOW!

The *Our Children, Our Future Act* will provide revenues dedicated to improving all of our schools. Attend the Fourth District PTA Initiative Event on February 15 to find out how you can be part of the statewide drive to transform our schools! Details on page 1.

How many signatures must be collected?

The measure must collect 504,760 signatures by April 20 to qualify for the November ballot. To assure that there are enough valid signatures, the campaign plans to collect 800,000, beginning in February.

For more information, including the full text of the initiative, go to www.OurChildrenOurFuture2012.com.

Who is Molly Munger?

Molly Munger is a former federal prosecutor and business litigator who left corporate work to become an advocate for communities and schools in need. She serves on the boards of the James Irvine Foundation, Occidental College and Children Now, and is a member of the K-12 Advisory Committee of the Rand Corporation. Her father, Charles Munger, is Warren Buffett's partner at Berkshire Hathaway.

Munger is co-founder and co-director of the Advancement Project, a civil rights organization based in Los Angeles and Washington D.C. The Advancement Project was founded in 1999 by "veteran civil rights lawyers who were looking for new ways to dismantle structural barriers to inclusion, secure racial equity, and expand opportunity for all," according to the organization's website.



Molly Munger