



## Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act Talking Points – 2.11.2016

**Background:** Voters approved Proposition 30 in 2012, which helped put California back on the road to budget stability. Had Prop. 30 not passed, California would have faced another \$6 billion in cuts in 2013 alone. Instead, California began restoring funding to our students, schools, colleges, health care and other vital community services. Prop. 30 helped public education recover some of the funds it lost during the recession. We're now just starting to get our schools and community colleges on track. School districts and colleges have hired more teachers, faculty and education support professionals; brought additional textbooks and supplies directly to the classroom; reopened school libraries; and improved access to college courses. At the same time, Prop. 30 has helped to stabilize California's budget, and helped prevent more devastating cuts to services for seniors and low-income children.

That is why a coalition made up of education, labor, health care and community groups has come together and filed the Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act. The Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act is a temporary extension of the income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians approved by voters in Prop. 30. The extension only affects the top 2% of earners in the state, and will automatically expire after 12 years. The measure is expected to raise \$8-11 billion a year that will go directly into a special fund that supports K-12 education and community colleges. By helping the state maintain and fund critical resources for education, the state then has additional funding for other essential services like health care and to invest in the state's Rainy Day Reserve Fund. Up to \$2 billion a year will go to health care for low-income children, seniors and their families.

### Talking Points:

- The Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act couldn't come at a better time for our students and communities across California. The last recession caused more than \$56 billion in cuts to public education, health care and other critical services. Our students, schools and colleges can't afford to go back to those years of devastating budget cuts.
- Voters approved Proposition 30 in 2012 to prevent deeper cuts to education and help put California back on the road to budget stability. Had Prop. 30 not passed, California would have faced another \$6 billion in cuts in 2013 alone. Instead, California began restoring funding for our public schools, colleges and other vital services like health care.
- Prop. 30 helped public education recover some of the funds it lost during the recession. We're only now just starting to get our schools and community colleges on track. We've hired more teachers, faculty and education support professionals; brought additional books and supplies directly to the classroom; re-opened school libraries; and improved student access to community college courses, while at the same time helped to stabilize California's budget.

- In (insert your local school district) Prop. 30 funds have allowed us to (insert what you've been able to do with the funding like negotiate for smaller class sizes, rehired XX teachers and counselors, restored salary cuts with an increase of XX%, reinstated music, P.E. and art, etc.)
- Still, our schools and colleges have a long way to go. California continues to lag far behind the rest of the country in education funding, ranking 46<sup>th</sup> in per-student spending. Governor Brown's 2016-17 budget forecasts show that unless we extend the tax on the wealthiest Californians, our schools and colleges will come up nearly \$5 billion short in the first year, and the state budget will face a nearly \$3 billion deficit. Without the Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act, we risk going back to the days of massive education cuts, teacher layoffs, and huge budget holes for our healthcare programs.
- Our students cannot afford another round of drastic cuts that could potentially mean \$5 billion less each year for lowering class sizes, providing a well-rounded education, supporting professional development, keeping school libraries open, and ensuring students have access to higher education.
- The Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act temporarily extends the income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians and only affects the top 2% of earners in the state. The tax increases will automatically expire after 12 years.
- The measure is expected to raise \$8-11 billion a year that will go directly into a special fund that supports K-12 education and community colleges. By helping the state maintain and fund critical resources for public education, the measure also provided funding for other essential services like health care for low-income children and seniors. Up to \$2 billion a year will go to health care for low-income children and their families.
- Like Prop. 30, this measure includes strict accountability provisions and will not permit any of the funds to go towards bureaucracy or administrative costs. The funds will be used to help students by reducing class sizes, updating textbooks, hiring new teachers and keeping tuition costs from skyrocketing. The money is also subject to audits by the State Controller.