



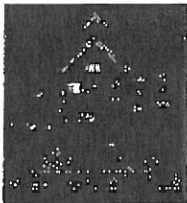
CSBA



Central Valley Education Coalition



KENNETH M. YOUNG



CCSESA



January 5, 2011

Hon. Tom Torlakson
Superintendent of Public Instruction
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Superintendent Torlakson:

Re: AB 114 Transition Work Group to Implement AB 3632 Reforms

On behalf of a broad coalition of school districts and county offices of education throughout California, we are writing to thank you for the work being done by the AB 114 Transition Work Group to implement the changes required in the 2011-12 Budget Act regarding the state's mental health program.

We believe that this work is essential as school districts and special education local plan areas (SELPA's) take over the management of mental health services for students previously provided under AB 3632. However, we are concerned that there has yet to be a full discussion about the possible need to amend the state's plan that controls access to federal funding through Medi-Cal. In our view, amending the plan to allow school districts and county offices of education full access to these funds, where appropriate, is a critical component of the overall reform effort proposed by the legislature and Governor in the Budget Act.

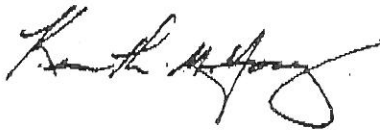
We have been told that there are concerns associated with amending the state plan and that doing so, in order to allow school districts to gain access to federal funds, may potentially have unintended consequences. If there are such problems, school districts and SELPA's are not fully aware of the issue and are asking for the opportunity to become informed. We feel it is imperative that the 114 Transition Work Group discuss this issue in full and that you invite representatives from the field who are well versed in the previous AB 3632 process, the current state plan and the implications of any changes. We would welcome the opportunity to suggest other school district and SELPA representatives for participation.

In this way, representatives from school districts, County Mental Health agencies and the state can fully discuss the relevant issues and come to a set of actions that will move the 2011-12 budget reform efforts forward in a way that broadens the State Plan and the use of federal funds to provide educationally-related mental health services consistent with the goals established in the budget trailer bill.

Further, we would also like to urge you to appoint a long-term consultant at the California Department of Education who can dedicate the time and effort necessary to work as a liaison between the AB 114 committee, the LEA Billing Advisory and LLC Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) committees, California Department of Health Services and the various stakeholders.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. We would be willing to meet with you or your staff to discuss this issue in more detail and we are hopeful that it will be before the work group for a full discussion in the very near future.

Sincerely,



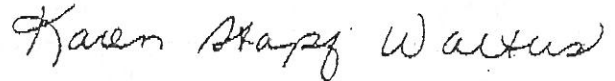
Kenneth M. Young
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools



Erika Hoffman, Legislative Advocate
California School Boards Association



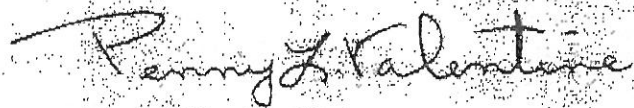
Elliott Duchon, Chairman
Riverside County School Superintendents' Association



Karen Stapf Walters, Asst. Executive Director
Association of California School Administrators



David Walrath, Legislative Advocate
Small School Districts Association



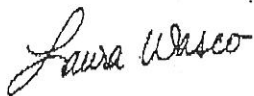
Penny Valentine, Chair
State SELPA Association



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California Association of Suburban Schools



Peter Birdsall, Executive Director
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association



Laura Wasco, Legislative Advocate
Central Valley Education Coalition



Nancy LaCasse, Legislative Advocate
Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
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