

Sacramento Office of Education County

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David W. Gordon
Superintendent

May 12, 2008

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VIA FACSIMILE: 916.319.2181
Assemblymember Mark Leno, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0013

Subject: **AB 2544 (Mullin) SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Leno,

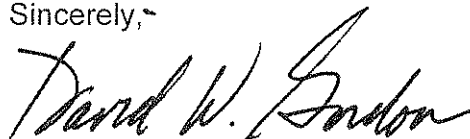
As the Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools, I would like to offer a position of SUPPORT for AB 2544 (Mullin), which would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a plan and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on the development of a model civic education staff development program.

Delegates at the annual California State PTA convention in 2006 passed a resolution, *Support for the Civic Mission of Schools*, expressing the PTA's commitment to make civic learning a priority in our schools. The California State PTA actively supports efforts to promote the fulfillment of the civic mission of schools and to help students attain the knowledge and skills to participate in the democratic process and to become effective citizens. AB 2544 is an important first step in this difficult budget year.

Schools have an historic responsibility for developing all students into active and responsible citizens. It is vitally important that we provide them with educational programs that enhance their understanding of the American constitutional process and teach them to realize its relevancy.

We must educate young people on the critical relationship between government and the citizens it serves. It is incumbent upon all of us to help our students obtain the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding that they need to operate effectively as citizens.

Sincerely,~



David W. Gordon
Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools

cc: Debbie Genzer, Sr. Program Director, Constitutional Rights Foundation



Chapter 487/AFL-CIO