

The Honorable _____

RE: Increase Funding for California's School Health Program -- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)

Dear _____:

California's proposal was approved but not funded. Approximately 18 other states were funded. The proposals were highly competitive with approximately 40 states applying for funds. We understand that California is very close to the "cut-off" line in the listing of rank-order states and that California would have been funded if CDC had more funds. We are asking your help in allocating additional funds to the 2004 CDC/DASH Budget to fund more states so that they can fund the "approved but not funded projects" such as California's. Specifically, an additional \$10 million for CDC-DASH is needed in 2004 for this work to continue in California and other states. (Line item: Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Functional Table, School Health line item.)

I/We [identify your organization if you are writing to represent a group] are writing today to bring to your attention that we were recently informed by the CDC/DASH that **after seven years of funding, California will not be funded** to continue their significant work in **School Health**. California has done an outstanding job over the past seven years for the children and youth of our State. In a state the size of California -- with over 6 million public school children, 8,700 school sites, 1,000 districts and 300,000 teachers -- this is a huge task.

There is broad support for California's work in the area of school health including the school health coalition, a work group of approximately 100 organizations, agencies and leaders from schools and communities that have joined forces to develop a system of supports for kids and their families. As you are well aware, children/youth that are healthy -- physical, mentally and emotionally -- are more successful in school. **I/We** are asking for your assistance.

California has a long list of significant accomplishments that are a direct result of the grant funds received over the past seven years. Some of these examples include:

[list local or organizational achievements, or select several off the attached list.]

As an active member of the School Health Program in California, **[I/we]** urge you to keep California's school health program alive. The kids and families of California will be the real winners. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Name
Organization