

CMEA: The California Association for Music Education
P. O. Box 2380
Portola, CA 96122

Mary Salas
California Assembly

MAR 27 2009

Dear Ms. Salas,

As President of The California Association for Music Education, I represent 2500 music educators teaching different levels of music throughout the state. From what I have heard at our state conference this month and from what I know as reported by our regional officers, CMEA is united in support of AB 351.

As you know, music and the arts are part of the core curriculum and part of every student's balanced education. Unfortunately, high school graduation and college entrance requirements fill a student's schedule so completely that many students can't continue their love and study of music within their school schedule.

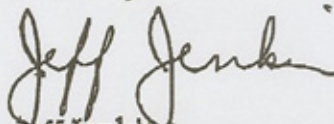
Throughout the years, California students have been able to create an extra instructional period by substituting their marching practice time as their P. E. class. With the strenuous physical workout required in field and parade practicing and performance, this substitution does give students the athletic work-out required for good physical health.

The passage of the new Physical Education law, however, eliminates Marching Band Physical Education credit and access to music education.

The new P. E. law was intended to address students who were inactive and potentially overweight. But students in Marching Band have been shown to be the ones most likely to pass the 9th grade fitness test as marching practice and performance requires a high degree of physical exertion and coordination.

The music teachers of California want what is best for its students. We support AB 351 because it gives access to music while giving students the exercise they need.

Sincerely,



Jeff Jenkins
CMEA President