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PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 27, 2009

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 351 (Salas) Physical Education - Support

Dear Assembly Member Brownley:

We believe that it is important to provide students with quality physical fitness opportunities, and ask for your support of AB 351 (Salas), legislation to help California school communities meet this objective.

AB 351 provides school children with more opportunities to meet the state's physical education requirements by counting participation in interscholastic athletic programs, marching band, drill team, and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps toward meeting the PE instructional minutes requirement outlined in state law. This legislation would provide formal recognition of these rigorous fitness regiments that are critical to students' educational experiences and that prepare them well for the FITNESSGRAM, the state's comprehensive series of physical fitness tests.

These programs have been, are and should continue to be an important part of the California high school experience - they are chief among the activities that keep many of our kids coming to school. But without AB 351 and in the midst of this financial crisis, school districts will be hard pressed to continue providing these programs. The state should not impose barriers for school districts that wish to preserve such critical programs that prepare students to meet the standards to be considered physically fit.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 351 and the elimination of current bureaucratic impediments to providing students with quality physical fitness opportunities. We urge you and your colleagues on the Assembly Education Committee to vote for AB 351.

Sincerely,

Edwin Diaz
Superintendent

cc: Board of Education, Pasadena Unified School District
Mary Salas, Assembly Member
Mike Eng, Member, Assembly Education Committee
Gerry Shelton, Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Chelsea Kelley, Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Robert Becker, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

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