



**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR:**

*Contact: Kara Buchanan (916) 479.2388*

**Friday, September 5, 2008**

**Educators to Protest Assemblymember Villines:  
Shame on You for Blocking a Responsible Budget!**

*Local educators launch billboard to prevent cuts*

*Villines wants to cut schools by \$5 billion*

**Fresno --** On Friday, as part of a “Statewide Day of Action” the Education Coalition will hold a press conference and protest outside the offices of Assemblymember Villines to protest his failure to support a responsible state budget that doesn’t cut billions more from our schools and students, and from other vital public services.

To draw attention to Assemblymember Villines’ abdication of his responsibility to the people of California, the California Federation of Teachers and its Fresno community college affiliate, the State Center Federation of Teachers, will launch a mobile billboard at the event, which will travel the streets of Fresno for the following week. It will list Villines’ office phone number and ask the public to call to tell him to stop hurting the state’s children now.

As the state budget stalemate lingers, critical school programs are not being funded and our students continue to be shortchanged. Assemblymember Villines was named by the *Sacramento Bee* as the leader in the “Stars of Shame” for holding the budget up (*Editorial: Stars of shame for seven leaders, Sacramento Bee editorial, September 3, 2008*). Villines has refused to consider any taxes as part of the budget, including simply restoring taxes to the level of 1993 on the wealthiest Californians (\$300,000 and up yearly income). If the state fails to pass a responsible, compromise budget plan, schools will be denied an additional \$2.5 billion in funding in mid-September. (See the billboard at [www.cft.org/councils/ec/news/edco17.html](http://www.cft.org/councils/ec/news/edco17.html))

It’s time to pass a responsible budget that doesn’t rely on gimmicks and faulty fixes that only make our state’s budget problems worse!

**WHAT: Press Conference, Billboard Debut and Protest Outside the offices of Assemblymember Villines**

**WHEN: Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 P.M.**

**WHERE: Assem. Villines District Office  
6245 N. Fresno Street #106  
Fresno, CA 93710**

**WHO: Parents, teachers, school employees, and concerned citizens who want a responsible budget passed now!**