

ACSA/CSBA SAMPLE RESOLUTION

The California Live Within Our Means Act–Proposition 76

WHEREAS, California’s 6 million students deserve high-quality schools with well-trained educators, small class sizes, quality instructional materials, up-to-date textbooks and dynamic parental support; and

WHEREAS, The California Live Within Our Means Act (Proposition 76) would upset the balance of power between the governor and the legislature by giving the governor the power to both create and declare a fiscal emergency and then to take unilateral budget actions; and

WHEREAS, These actions include multiple mid-year across-the-board cuts for all programs including education, thus violating the constitutional priority given to K-12 by the voters of California and placing K-12 funding at the mercy of the politics of the moment; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 76 would also eliminate basic provisions and guarantees as provided by voters when they passed Proposition 98, including making the 2004-05 reductions to school funding permanent rather than temporary, and eliminating the requirement to restore any reductions to the funding guarantee; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 76 would seriously undermine the continuity and quality of instructional programs by exposing schools to unstable funding and the constant threat of mid-year cuts, making it impossible to plan and budget for ongoing spending commitments because of the possibility of spending increases in one year and reductions the next year; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 76 would severely impact the funding base for schools – resulting in as much as \$4 billion (\$600 per student) per year below the minimum funding base required by current law; and

WHEREAS, if Proposition 76 is approved, California would continue its downward spiral from ranking in the top ten in per pupil funding to one of the lowest states in the nation (a recent “Quality Counts 2005” report by Education Week ranks California 44th in the nation); and

WHEREAS, California schools have already suffered \$9.8 billion in cuts and deferrals in the last several years resulting in school closures, increases in class size, layoffs of teachers and support staff, and a shameful shortage of librarians, counselors, nurses, custodians and groundskeepers throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 76 breaks several promises made by Governor Schwarzenegger and the legislature to repay and restore minimum Proposition 98 base funding and settle-up funds; and

WHEREAS, (*school district/county office of education*) has suffered more than \$() million in cuts over the last several years, including (*examples of cuts*); and

WHEREAS, The California Live Within Our Means Act (Proposition 76) is unsound public policy, and unfairly punishes schools and students and undermines the education funding protections voters say they want; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the (*school district/county office of education*) strongly opposes Proposition 76 on the November 8 special election ballot.