



everychild.one voice.

2327 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-5014

916.440.1985 • FAX 916.440.1986 • E-mail info@capta.org • www.capta.org

“Off the hook, ’round the clock”

State budget advocacy activity for February 3-9

Believe it or not, **some state legislators say they are not hearing much from constituents** about proposed budget cuts to education and children. We know many of you have been working hard to communicate the message that the Governor and the Legislature must take a balanced approach to solving the budget crisis to prevent such damaging cuts.

We need to make them hear us! This week we encourage PTA districts, councils and/or units to organize phone calling to make sure the voice of PTA and parents is heard loud and clear.

What can you do? Set up an “off-the-hook, ’round-the-clock” calling day. It’s easy.

- 1 **Identify one or more legislators in your area.** Every legislator – even longstanding champions of education – needs to hear from us. You don’t need to try to connect with all legislators in your area. They talk to each other – so even if you only contact one, it’s worth it. Find your legislators at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>
- 2 **Choose a day to call.** We recommend this Friday, but select a day when you’ll have many volunteers who can make a three-minute time commitment to calling.
- 3 **Set up a schedule with time slots** for a different volunteer to call the legislator’s district office every 15 minutes for an entire day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (If you have more volunteers, schedule calls every 10 minutes; fewer volunteers can be scheduled every half-hour.)
- 4 **Circulate the schedule in person or by email and get volunteers to sign up.**
- 5 **Once you have the schedule set, email it to all of the callers to remind them of their commitment.** In the email, include the legislator’s phone number, our sample phone call script (or your own), and our FAQs (for reference). Include the legislator’s address and email in case callers want to follow up with a note.
- 6 If possible, **follow up with reminders** to your volunteers on the actual calling day.
- 7 **After your calling day, be sure to email Pat Dingsdale**, Director of Legislation, at legislation@capta.org, with a report on which legislators were contacted and any responses. This helps when we meet with legislators in Sacramento.
- 8 **Congratulate** yourself and your volunteers on taking the time to stand up for children!

We will keep you posted on any news from Sacramento – and you can always check our website for news as well – www.capta.org.

SAMPLE TELEPHONE SCRIPT

Use this message when talking to your state legislators – or adopt your own talking points based on these.

Hello, my name is _____ and I reside in _____.

I am calling to urge you to put children **first** when considering the state budget.

Cuts in the current budget proposal threaten an entire generation of students, and our future economy.

Please vote to protect children from these devastating budget cuts to education and children's services.

PTA urges a balanced and reasonable approach to solving the state's ongoing budget problem, one that includes sufficient revenues that hold our children harmless.

Adequate funding for education and other children's services is the smartest investment California can make. The future of our state depends on it.

Thank you.