



For Immediate Release

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CONVENTION RELEASE

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PTA convention steps out with a rally

Advocates take action to the Capitol

SACRAMENTO -- Hundreds of PTA members unleashed the power of PTA with a rally at the Capitol on the first day of the 111th annual convention.

The rally was part of the California State PTA's ongoing 9 Million Reasons To Speak Up campaign to let elected leaders know that we must invest in the more than 9 million children and youth living in California, rather than repeatedly cutting funding for education and other critical children's services.

"We need to get this message to the building behind us," said Jo A.S. Loss, president of the California State PTA, which has nearly 1 million members throughout the state. The crowd clapped, hollered and cheered in agreement.

"This cutting has got to stop," Assembly member Julia Brownley told the crowd, referring to budget cuts to education. The consequences of continuing slashing budgets, will be dire, she suggested: "The only education our kids will get will be in prison or on the streets."

Vanessa Berastain, president of Neil Armstrong Elementary School PTA in San Ramon, addressed the crowd in Spanish, pointing out the Latino community's support for these issues is crucial.

The rally took place on the first day of the annual convention, which drew thousands of PTA delegates and members to Sacramento. The convention ends May 2.

The California State PTA has nearly 1 million members throughout the state working on behalf of public schools, children and families, with the motto, "Every child, one voice." The PTA is the nation's oldest, largest and highest profile volunteer association working to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth. The PTA also advocates at national, state and local levels for education and family issues. The PTA is nonprofit, nonsectarian and noncommercial. For more information, visit www.capta.org.