



Office of the Mayor

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May 20, 2020

VIA EMAIL: ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov

Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to \$100 million cut to After School Education and Safety (ASES)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to express my concern about the proposed \$100 million cut to the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program. As an educator by profession, I've witnessed the positive effects after-school expanded learning and child care programs have on our youth, and the importance of the ASES grant administered by the City of Moreno Valley.

You may know that after-school programs operate in communities with the highest levels of poverty and serve families who have been hit hardest by both the economic and medical effects of COVID-19:

- 84% of children in after-school programs in California are economically disadvantaged;
- 9 out of 10 students in after-school programs are children of color;
- 1/3 children in ASES programs are English learners; and
- 25% of California's homeless students depend on our state's after-school programs.

In Moreno Valley, the City-administered ASES program serves more than 4,000 students daily at 43 middle and elementary schools in two school districts. A funding cut of this magnitude would mean our children would lose access to the academic support and daily meals/suppers it provides. And, perhaps most important, thousands of children would be left unsupervised during that critical time between when school lets out and parents get home.

Additionally, reducing the daily funding rate to the 2007 level of just \$7.50 per enrollee, rather than reducing the number of students served, would hurt program quality deeply. Annual minimum wage increases paired with this proposed massive cut could cause valuable programs like ours, operated by Think Together, to become insolvent. We need to ensure that after-school programs can pay staff at least minimum wage, provide the support that schools need to respond to COVID-19, and allow parents to go back to work and help rebuild the economy.

I understand that budget cuts need to be made somewhere; but ASES is so important for the safety and well-being of our City's children – and to their parents who need the freedom and peace of mind to go back to work – that I urge you to seek reductions elsewhere.

Respectfully,



Dr. Yxstian Gutierrez
Mayor
City of Moreno Valley

c: Senator Richard D. Roth, Tyler.Madary@sen.ca.gov
Assemblymember Jose Medina, Rita.medina@asm.ca.gov
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