

July 8, 2008

The Honorable Mike Villines
Assembly Republican Leader
State Capitol, Room 3104
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: OCBC Opposes SBX3-16 (Senator Dave Cox – R)

Dear Assemblyman Villines,

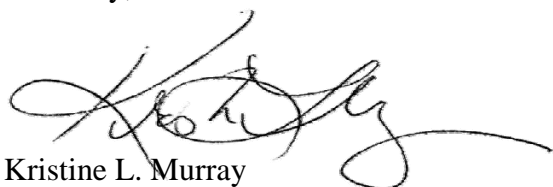
On behalf of the Orange County Business Council, representing the voice of business in America's fifth largest county, I am writing to express our opposition to SBX3-16 (Senator Dave Cox – R). We fully understand the difficulty of negotiating the state budget this year and recognize closing the budget deficit will require some very tough choices. However, we urge you to reject this proposal which would divert local funding, approved by the voters, and jeopardize vital programs benefiting the children of Orange County.

Following the passage of Proposition 10, the Orange County Board of Supervisors established the Children and Families Commission and appointed its nine commissioners to assess and allocate funds to programs that promote development of children in our community. The Commissioners are drawn from the ranks of public and private-sector leaders in the areas of pediatric health and education. The Commission began with a series of public meetings throughout the county to receive input from organizations that serve children and families, under-represented ethnic groups, and special-need populations. Based on what it learned, the Commission adopted its first Strategic Plan and allocated the first tobacco tax revenues in 2000.

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County continues to allocate its funds based on a strict set of performance criteria. The funded programs are focused on providing healthcare and early literacy assistance, as mandated by the voters, to our county's most at-risk children. This included is the funding of community clinics, school nurses, early disease detection, oral health, and others. In most cases, these programs do not receive any additional assistance from a state program.

The Business Council recognizes the difficult choices facing lawmakers. But diverting the Proposition 10 funds to a centralized state agency would break faith with the voters and would strand the children of Orange County who have been benefiting from the health and literacy programs currently available to them through the Children and Families Commission. We urge you to reject SBX3-16 (Senator Dave Cox – R).

Sincerely,



Kristine L. Murray
Vice President of Government Affairs

cc: Orange County State Legislative Delegation

July 8, 2008

The Honorable Dave Cogdill
Senate Republican Leader
State Capitol, Room 3048
Sacramento, California 95814

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Dear Senator Cogdill,

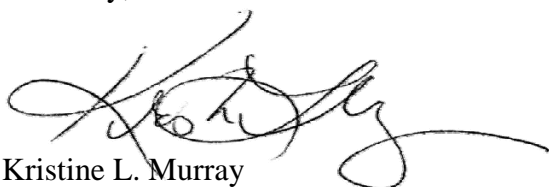
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Kristine L. Murray
Vice President of Government Affairs

cc: Assemblyman Mike Villines, Assembly Republican Leader
Orange County State Legislative Delegation