

[DATE]

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Email: www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I write to ask you to support additional Federal funding for K-12 public education.

Our Public Schools Are In Crisis

California state funding for public education is collapsing under the strain of COVID-19. Our school district is in serious financial distress and we need your help. Now, more than ever.

State Budget Cuts Are Destabilizing MBUSD

Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) faces a dire financial situation.

As a Revenue Limit District, our schools receive only a small fraction of local property taxes. We therefore rely heavily on state aid to reach minimum funding levels for our 6,000+ students, the vast majority of whom do not qualify for any form of supplemental state funding.

In recent years, the steady combination of declining state funding and soaring operational costs has pushed our district's limited budget to the breaking point.

As a result, we have been forced to spend down our reserves to offset these sustained deficits. Our reserves are now dangerously close to falling below the minimum level required by the state.

This problem has only been compounded by the economic impact of COVID-19, the move to distance learning, and the unknown costs associated with the safe reopening of our schools.

Now, recently announced state budget cuts will further slash our already reduced state funding levels by an additional 10% -- an additional projected \$6.6 million cut for MBUSD.

These funding levels are insufficient to sustain current district operations and threaten the future health, stability and survival of our school district.

Simply put: This is a devastating blow to our children's schools and community.

Additional Federal Funding For K-12 Public Schools Is Needed Now

As the Senate now negotiates a fourth supplemental aid package in response to COVID-19, it is essential that the final bill includes significant, robust, and flexible funding for our K-12 public schools.

The \$58 billion earmarked for K-12 public schools in the current draft legislation is woefully inadequate to address the magnitude of this once-in-a-generation financial crisis. It is but one-third of the \$200 billion investment needed to save our schools and protect our children's futures.

We must act now. Please support additional funding for K-12 public education to be distributed to the local level via ADA/per pupil funding.

Thank you for your leadership and prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

[FIRST/LAST NAME]