

50,000 + PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS PETITION STATE SENATORS TO STOP THE BILLION DOLLAR EDUCATION CUT

Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign organize supporters to oppose the cuts

HARRISBURG—(June 6, 2011)—More than 15,000 Pennsylvania citizens want the State Senate to know that putting their children’s futures at risk is unacceptable.

With their signatures on petitions and with their postcards, these Pennsylvanians are joining with the Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign (PSFC) in opposing the proposal to make large cuts in education funding. The PSFC is a coalition of more than 30 statewide and regional education and advocacy organizations representing hundreds of thousands of parents, students, educators, school board members, administrators and other concerned citizens. The petitions were delivered today to every state senator’s office.

These are in addition to more than 34,000 signatures on a similar petition—a joint effort by Penn ACTION and Education Voters of PA—delivered today to Governor Corbett’s office at the State Capitol.

“The future of our state depends upon highly educated citizens,” said Ron Cowell, president of The Education Policy and Leadership Center. “We hope that as the State Senate undertakes budget deliberations starting this week it will find ways to keep from cutting school funding. There is no better investment we can make in our own future prosperity.”

“Pennsylvania students have made real progress and demonstrated increased test scores in recent years,” he added. “In fact, Pennsylvania is now a national leader in academic achievement based on investments in effective programs such as full-day kindergarten, pre-K, and tutoring for struggling students. \$1 billion in cuts to public education will turn back the clock on this progress.”

If the Senate adopts either the Governor’s original budget proposal or the version that passed the House in late May:

- Pennsylvania’s families will face higher local property taxes.
- Educational programs that have been proven to raise educational achievement – such as full-day kindergarten, pre-K programs, and tutoring – will be cut.
- School districts across the state will be forced to lay off teachers and other staff.
- Our children will not gain the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce of the 21st century.