



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6

City and County of San Francisco

JANE KIM

For Immediate Release

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**Coalition Pushes For Final Approval of \$2.2 Million To Help Students Graduate :
Claims Victory In Wake of Mayor's Line Item Veto**

San Francisco – After a lengthy battle over whether the City has a responsibility to ensure our youth survive debilitating state budget cuts, the Board of Supervisors passed a \$2.2 million supplemental appropriation last Tuesday to ensure that San Francisco's class of 2014/2015 has the opportunity to graduate. The wholesale loss of state funding for afterschool course credits coupled with San Francisco's new graduation standards have contributed to the current crisis wherein half of the City's junior class is not on track to graduate. The majority of these students are African-American, Latino, Chinese and English Language Learners.

Mayor Lee vetoed a portion of the funding before the weekend, citing concerns over the use of San Francisco general fund dollars for public schools. While negotiating the supplemental appropriation, several overlooked funding sources were discovered, which led to an eventful dialogue around how the City allocates school funding to our schools.

Supervisor Kim said, "How we spend our general fund budget showcases what our priorities are as a city. One of my priorities is public education, hands down. While I am disappointed that the Mayor would veto such a critical priority, I am proud that this legislative process led to the discovery and release of unknown funds that the City owed the school district. Without the community pushing to make our kids a priority, these funds would never have come to light. I also want to thank Supervisors John Avalos, David Campos, Eric Mar, Christina Olague, David Chiu and Malia Cohen for their clear and unwavering support."

While there was a discussion over whether to convene a special Board meeting to overturn the veto, last-minute consensus amongst parents, teachers and youth and family advocates recognized that this one-time ask to backfill state cuts to SFUSD was just the beginning of a larger conversation about how the City supports the school district – and cut the City funding

from our schools in the past. Since Fiscal Year 2008/2009, the City has cut Prop H Public Enrichment and Education (PEEF) funds totaling \$74 million. These funds were dedicated by the voters of San Francisco to backfilling state and federal cuts to our schools and must be paid back according to voter mandate.

Chelsea Boilard, Director of Programs for Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, said, “We are very concerned about the precedent that this veto sets for the long-term commitment to our schools. Thanks in part to the diligent review of the budget by our supervisors, it was very clear that the City should never have pulled the Prop H trigger last year. That was \$17.8 million that should have gone to our kids last year alone. At the same time, we are proud that so many of our elected representatives have taken a stand to help close the achievement gap and shine a light on these issues. Without Supervisors Kim, Avalos, Campos, Mar, Cohen and Chiu, we never would have gotten \$1.4 million to help our junior class graduate and \$1.5 million in Rainy Day Funds for our teachers.”

Supervisor Malia Cohen said, “I am proud that we pushed the City family to recognize the importance of funding our public schools. We are one of the top performing urban school districts in the State, but yet we still have one of the greatest achievement gaps. I had absolutely no hesitation supporting this legislation because this is our kids we are talking about. The School District has worked hard to develop a plan to help our youth, and I look forward to continuing discussions about how we can best support our kids.”

Todd David, a public school parent, said, “This is just the beginning. Supervisor Kim’s legislation ultimately garnered the school district \$1.4 million in credit recovery funds, and we still have an opportunity to help these kids graduate! In addition, the data we recovered through this process has led to some very poignant revelations about how the City allocates the voters’ Prop H funds. So I am very hopeful that we can use that data moving forward to support families, as the City always claims to want to do.”

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