



March 20, 2024

Senator Shannon Grove
1021 O Street, Suite 7150
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

SUBJECT – SB 1203/ SCA 9; SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP

We write as proud sponsors of Senate Bill 1203 and Senate Constitutional Amendment 9 which would create Education Flex Accounts (EFA) and Special Education Flex Accounts (SEFA) for any child who desires to seek an education outside of a public school using general fund dollars that would have otherwise been allocated to their education if they were attending their traditional neighborhood schools.

Public education in the United States is failing our children and not preparing them to be civically minded adults in the 21st-century economy. This problem is even more pronounced in California where the National Assessment of Educational Progress consistently ranks our state's students in the bottom tiers of academic achievement and lower than the national average for most grade levels. Parents need more options.

The Governor's Proposed January Budget Summary for 2024-25 shows "K-12 per-pupil funding totals \$17,653 Proposition 98 General Fund and \$23,519 per pupil when accounting for all funding sources." Yet, these funds are segregated from non-government schools that are public facing forcing parents to pay for private schools and other education needs in addition to their regular tax burden. Recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings removed any roadblocks states faced in the past giving them more flexibility in creating similar education accounts like West Virginia, Arizona, Utah, Iowa, Arkansas.

Parents should have the tools and resources necessary to provide the best education opportunities for their kids regardless of their zip code. That is why California Policy Center fully supports SB 1203 and SCA 9 and looks forward to making EFAs a reality for all kids.

Sincerely,

Lance Christensen
Vice President of Education Policy & Government Affairs