

Board of Directors

October 29, 2009

Chair

Jane K. Gardner
Harbour Consulting

Vice Chair

Peter D. Bewley
The Clorox Company (Retired)

Neal Baer, M.D.
Wolf Films/
Universal Television

Geoffrey Cowan
USC, Annenberg School for
Communication

John Garcia
Kaiser Permanente

David G. Johnson
Johnson-Roessler Company

Suzanne Nora Johnson
The Goldman Sachs Group

Allan K. Jonas
Jonas & Associates

Donald Kennedy
Science Magazine

Gay Krause
Foothill College, Krause
Center for Innovation

Daniel Luevano
Attorney

Lenny Mendonca
McKinsey & Company

Theodore R. Mitchell
NewSchools Venture Fund

Molly Munger
English, Munger & Rice

Craig Parsons
Communications Consultant

Hon. Cruz Reynoso
UC Davis, School of Law

Jennie Ward Robinson, Ph.D.
Institute for Public Health
and Water Research

Karen R. Schievelbein
UnitedHealth Group

Katharine Schlosberg
Educational Consultant

James P. Steyer
Common Sense Media

Michael Tollin
Tollin/Robbins Productions

Gloria Tristani
Spiegel & McDiarmid

Grace Won
Farella Braun + Martel LLP

Of Counsel

Holly L. Sutton
Farella Braun + Martel LLP

1212 Broadway, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel: 510.763.2444
Fax: 510.763.1974

1127 11th Street, Suite 452
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916.443.1869
Fax: 916.443.1204

childrennow.org
info@childrennow.org

The Honorable Gloria Romero, Chair
Senate Education Committee
Capitol Room 2090
Sacramento CA 95814

RE SBX5 2 (Simitian)—SUPPORT

Dear Senator Romero:

I am writing to express Children Now's support for SBX5 2 (Simitian) which addresses access to, and the privacy and security of, educational data. Children Now is a nonpartisan research and advocacy organization working to raise children's well-being to the top of the national policy agenda.

In the Race to the Top guidance, states are judged by their *reform conditions* and *reform plan*, and are specifically judged on the extent to which they have a quality plan that sets ambitious yet achievable targets. One of the *reform plan* criteria as it relates to **Data Systems to Support Instruction** is as follows:

(B)(2) Accessing and using State data
The extent to which the State has a high-quality plan to ensure that data from the State's statewide longitudinal data system are accessible to, and used to inform and engage, as appropriate, key stakeholders (e.g., parents, students, teachers, principals, LEA leaders, community members, unions, researchers, and policymakers); that the data support decision-makers in the continuous improvement of instruction, operations, management, and resource allocation; and that they comply with the applicable requirements of FERPA.

SBX5 2 would enact provisions needed to ensure that statewide longitudinal data can be accessed and used to inform and engage key stakeholders and decision-makers through the availability of high quality research. The provisions of SBX5 2 are consistent with recommendations from a 2008 study by the Legislative Analyst's Office titled, Redefining Student Data Access Policy, in which the Legislative Analyst concluded, "It is critical for the state to update its student data access policy."

Please support SBX5 2.

Sincerely,



Brad Lee Strong
Children Now

cc:

Senate Education Committee
Senator Joe Simitian