

June 30, 2011

Assemblymember Julia Brownley
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
Members, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SB 740 (Hancock)
Amd 5.31.11
SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Brownley and Members of the Assembly Education Committee,

On behalf of almost one million members, the California State PTA has taken a **SUPPORT** position on **SB 740**, which would exempt second grade students from the California Standards Tests (CSTs) which are a component of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. SB 740 would align California's state testing program with the federal, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) which does not require statewide testing until third grade.

The California State PTA believes that an effective statewide assessment program should provide strategies for monitoring the consequences of assessments to ensure beneficial impact on teaching and learning, include assessment instruments that have been field tested, and provide scores that are valid and reliable. Standardized testing of second graders does not meet that criteria, rather yields unreliable data while creating stressful situations for our young children. The National Parent Teacher Association has long held the position that standardized multiple-choice tests...should never be used with...early elementary children for any purpose.

The California State PTA believes early assessment is critical to improving public education for all children, helping them to reach grade level proficiency, and to provide services needed for success, however, assessment and evaluation must be done in a developmentally appropriate fashion. As amended, by requiring the CDE to provide information on appropriate diagnostic testing to school districts, SB 740 helps ensure access to appropriate testing for all students to help parents, teachers and schools understand the strengths and weaknesses in the child's learning; including identification of special needs.

We ask for an Aye vote when **SB 740 (Hancock)** is heard in your committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information about PTA's position.

Sincerely,



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