

## Resolution in Support of the Schools and Communities First Funding Act

**Whereas**, since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, school funding in California has experienced severe limitations in what was once the main source of funding for schools, the property tax, resulting in per-pupil support declining from the top 10 to the bottom quarter in the nation with funding at \$2,400 per pupil less than the national average and \$10,000 below the top-funded states. Public schools in California face challenges in providing an equitable and fair education and that research has proven that investments in high needs students raises achievement levels, lowers poverty, and increases the productivity of the workforce;

**Whereas**, while the intent of Proposition 13 is to help home owners, a loophole in the system permits major commercial and industrial properties to avoid regular reassessment, providing a windfall to commercial property owners at the expense of vital school funding and causing the share of the property tax burden to shift away from commercial property and toward residential property throughout the state in virtually every county. USC research shows that the current system benefits a relatively small number of properties owned by the largest corporations and wealthy owners who have held land for a long period of time and that failure to close the commercial property loophole has led to poor land use and inflated land values, particularly limiting the ability to provide adequate high-density housing and land use; and

**Whereas**, estimates by academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) have identified that reassessing commercial property will raise \$11 billion in property tax revenue every year for local schools, cities and counties; that nearly 80% of the revenue will come from just 8 percent of large properties; and that this measure will provide \$4.5 billion annually for K-14 schools and billions in funding yearly for cities, counties, and special districts in locally controlled revenues for affordable housing, parks, libraries, emergency responders, health and human services, libraries, and public infrastructure; now,

**Therefore, be it resolved** that DEMCCO joins with the San Diego Organizing Project, AFSME, American Federation of Teachers, California Teachers Association, San Diego Building Trades Council, SEIU California, League of Women Voters of California, ACLU of Southern California and many more organizations to endorse the Schools and Communities First Funding Act for a ballot measure in November 2020.

02/22/2020

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Date approved

*Linda Slater*  
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DEMCCO President