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## **Local school board officials travel to Washington, D.C. to advocate for California schoolchildren**

**(Washington, D.C.)** – School board leaders from throughout California begin a three-day advocacy effort in Washington, D.C. today as part of the annual Federal Issues Council organized by the California School Boards Association.

The delegation of board members and superintendents representing urban, rural and suburban districts throughout the state will meet with representatives of the White House, Congress and the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to address key federal education issues affecting California's 6 million public schoolchildren.

"Federal policies and programs have a profound impact on our local schools," said CSBA President **Dr. Kerry Clegg**, a board member of the Sulphur Springs Union Elementary School District in Los Angeles County. "We look forward to meeting with education officials in Washington, D.C. and working with them to help ensure that federal policy-makers are attuned to the diverse challenges and opportunities we face in California."

Members of the Federal Issues Council serve as liaisons between federal policy-makers and local schools. This year's delegation will focus on newly proposed legislation to 'fix and fund' the **No Child Left Behind Act**, the reauthorization of federal legislation that supports **vocational education** programs vital to our nation's success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy, the reauthorization of legislation that helps **rural schools** generate funds from federal forest lands and other critical issues.

The delegation's meeting schedule includes:

- **David Dunn**, chief of staff to the U.S. Secretary of Education
- **Holly Kuzmich**, White House associate director of domestic policy
- **Dr. Wade Horn**, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- **Patty Sullivan**, director, The Center on Education Policy
- **Joan Wodiska**, director of education, National Governor's Association
- **David Shreve**, director of education, National Conference of State Legislators
- **Sen. Diane Feinstein** and **Sen. Barbara Boxer** education representatives

The delegation's members include:

- **Dr. Kerry Clegg**, CSBA President, Sulphur Springs UESD, Los Angeles County
- **Luan Rivera**, CSBA President-elect, Ramona USD, San Diego County
- **Dr. Kathy Kinley**, CSBA Vice President, Chaffey Joint UHSD, San Bernardino County



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- **Bill Farris**, CSBA Board of Director, Sierra Sands USD, Kern County
- **Juanita Haugen**, CSBA Board of Director, Pleasanton USD, Alameda County
- **Crystal Kochendorfer**, CSBA Delegate, Capistrano USD, Orange County
- **Dr. Robert Nolet**, Superintendent, Sulphur Springs UESD, Los Angeles County
- **Phillip Tabera**, Board Member, Salinas UHSD, Monterey County
- **Barbara Thomas**, CSBA Board of Director and California County Boards of Education President, Fresno County Office of Education, Fresno County
- **David Tokofsky**, CSBA Board of Director, Los Angeles USD, Los Angeles County
- **Shelly Yarbrough**, CSBA Board of Director, Val Verde USD, Riverside County
- **Scott P. Plotkin**, Executive Director, CSBA
- **Rick Pratt**, Assistant Executive Director, Governmental Relations, CSBA
- **Mina Fasulo**, Assistant Executive Director, Communications, CSBA
- **Martin Gonzalez**, Assistant Executive Director, Governance & Policy Services, CSBA
- **Phil Escamilla**, Legislative Advocate, CSBA
- **Stephanie Farland**, Senior Research & Policy Consultant, CSBA
- **Matt Nichols**, Media Relations Specialist, CSBA

For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact CSBA Media Relations Specialist Matt Nichols at (916) 669-3243 or (916) 799-4663 or CSBA Assistant Executive Director, Communications Mina Fasulo at (916) 425-0109.

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