

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

This sample resolution expresses the governing board's support for the *Robles-Wong v. California* litigation filed in the Alameda County Superior Court by the California School Boards Association, Association of California School Administrators and California State PTA. Because the district/county office is not a party to the action, the resolution must be adopted in an open session meeting of the board.

Although this resolution is not urging a particular result in the use of district funds for political activities, in an abundance of caution, CSBA has drafted it in conformance with the same legal parameters that apply to political activities. The resolution is an informational presentation of the relevant facts to help educate district/county office staff and the community about this important litigation. Districts/County Offices are encouraged to adopt the resolution, fax a copy to CSBA to (916) 372-3369 and use normal communication channels to publicize the adoption.

Resolution in Support of Robles-Wong v. California, Litigation Challenging the State's School Finance System

WHEREAS, education is a fundamental right of every child in California; and

WHEREAS, California's constitution requires a public school system that prepares students to become informed citizens and productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, California has set clear requirements for what schools are expected to teach and what students are expected to learn; and

WHEREAS, the State has an obligation to maintain and support a school finance system that provides districts and county offices of education the resources necessary to meet these requirements; and

WHEREAS, California's school finance system is unsound, unstable, insufficient, and thus unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, the State's school finance system prevents _____ School District/County Office of Education from providing all of the education programs and services our students need to become proficient in the State's academic standards and to obtain a well-rounded education; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the broken school finance system, students are being denied the opportunity to master the required education program; and

WHEREAS, severe budget cuts over the last several years have made a dire situation worse by forcing districts to increase class size, lay off teachers, eliminate many programs necessary to support student learning and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit, *Robles-Wong v. California*, filed on May 20, 2010 in Alameda County seeks to remedy the broken school finance system by (1) declaring it unconstitutional and (2) requiring State lawmakers to uphold their constitutional duty to design and implement a school finance system that provides all students equal access to the required education program; and

WHEREAS, filing this lawsuit was a last resort—the Governor and lawmakers have known for some time that the current school finance system is harming students, schools and districts, and they have done nothing to remedy the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the _____ School District/County Office of Education believes it is imperative to provide a sound, stable, and sufficient school finance system so that all children have equal educational opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that _____ School District/County Office of Education strongly supports *Robles-Wong v. California*, the litigation challenging the State’s school finance system.

Please fax a copy of the adopted resolution to CSBA at (916) 372-3369. For more information, contact Brittany McKannay at (800) 266-3382, ext. 3242.