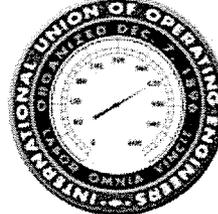
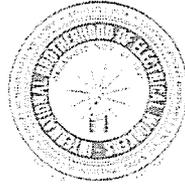




State League of the International Association of Fire Fighters - California Labor Federation - AFL-CIO



March 6, 2014

The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Budget Line Item 6870-101-0001 – Schedule (3) Apprenticeship and Schedule (3.5) Apprenticeship Training and Instruction: *Funding Augmentation Request***

Dear Senator Leno and Assemblywoman Skinner:

The undersigned labor organizations, representing working families and working apprentices throughout California, respectfully urge your consideration and support of the attached funding augmentation request for apprenticeship programs contained in Budget Line Item 6870-101-0001.

The Budget Act of 2013 consolidated the administration of the education component of apprenticeship, known as Related and Supplemental Instruction (RSI) under the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). The CCCCCO is now tasked with administering both the K-12 and community college governed apprenticeship programs. The CCCCCO's responsibilities, in consultation with other agencies, include: overseeing the education and training of apprentices, developing instructional materials and curricula, coordinating the program with local educational agencies (LEA's) and community colleges, assisting apprenticeship sponsors with problems of an educational nature as well as providing technical assistance to schools operating apprenticeship classes.

Throughout the last decade, funding for apprenticeship programs in both education systems was sharply reduced as the solution to meet the fiscal restraints and demands of the Great Recession. **Apprenticeship funding for the community colleges was reduced by 50% and K-12 LEA's were reduced by 20%. The action of**

**consolidation without any corresponding restoration of funds effectively made these drastic reductions permanent. The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-15 continues to lock in those drastic cuts by proposing no changes to the appropriation for apprenticeship.** By comparison, the Governor's proposed budget includes a \$268 million increase for Community College categorical programs - to \$900 million. That is a 42% increase over the revised current-year level.

Further, the Governor's proposed COLA of 0.86% is applied differently to the K-12 and community college systems. The K-12 COLA is applied to categorical programs, not included in the Local Control Funding Formula. On the Community College side, the COLA is only applied to apportionments. COLA's are not applied to categorical programs in community colleges. Previous Budget Acts applied COLA's to apprenticeship when organized under California Department of Education. Without the organizational change, the COLA would have applied to apprenticeship. We strongly urge you to adopt the following three actions in order to restore much-needed funding for apprenticeship:

- ✓ Restore the appropriation to reflect the 2007-2008 funding levels (adjusted to fund the same number of hours as were funded in 07-08 under the proposed hourly reimbursement rate); and
- ✓ Adjust the hourly reimbursement rate for RSI to a level equivalent to the current Community College non-credit rate – \$5.31/hour; and
- ✓ Apply the proposed .86% COLA to the apprenticeship program.

As California's economy recovers, the demand for apprentices is rapidly growing. While the state has added 2,500 new apprentices over the past two years, it is anticipated that this number will, at minimum, double over the next year. The proposed augmentation will provide for this anticipated apprenticeship enrollment growth and is crucial to ensuring that California's apprentices continue to be adequately trained. Additional history and rationale for the proposed augmentation, as well as proposed language for implementing these actions, is contained in the attachments to this letter.

We truly appreciate your consideration in this regard and look forward to speaking with you and your staff in the coming days regarding our organizations' collective request.

Sincerely,



Christy Bouma, Legislative Advocate  
California Professional Firefighters



Cesar Diaz, Legislative Director  
State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO



Mitch Seaman, Legislative Advocate  
California Labor Federation



Tim Cremins, Legislative Advocate  
International Union of Operating Engineers



Scott Wetch, Legislative Advocate  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
California State Pipe Trades Council  
International Association of Sheet Metal Workers

cc: Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance  
Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review, Subcommittee No. 1 on Education  
David Lanier, Secretary, Labor and Work Development Agency  
Brian McMahon, Undersecretary, Labor and Work Development Agency  
Christine Baker, Director, Department of Industrial Relations  
Diane Ravnik, Chief, Division of Apprenticeship Standards  
Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office  
John Dunn, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office