



## MAYOR ALAN AUTRY

August 28, 2006

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
VIA FACSIMILE 213-978-0656

Dear Antonio:

I have tried unsuccessfully to reach you regarding your education reform bill. I'm left with only one conclusion, that you felt the needed votes had been arranged and there was no need for you to return my call.

I can't tell you how disappointed I am. As you know, I supported your efforts for reform and crossed many of my fellow Republicans to do so. I did so with peace in my heart because I believed you genuinely cared about the welfare of all the children in California, many of whom live in the most impoverished region in the country – Fresno, California. It hurts me badly to think that you were apparently playing a political game for Los Angeles and Los Angeles only.

The bill that passed the Senate today could have easily contained the intent language for Fresno that Senator Denham fought for. All you and Fabian had to do was support it. It would have cost you and the Speaker nothing. But you didn't. It has become painfully obvious to me that you do not feel that the kids in Fresno are of equal value to the kids in L.A. I think they're all equally important and precious to this state.

Antonio, since I have been in office, writing this has been one of the most difficult things I have done because I truly do respect you. But answer me truthfully, if the shoe was on the other foot and you were the Mayor of Fresno with some of the lowest test scores and highest dropout rates in the State, would you say and do nothing? Would you stay silent after watching a similar reform for Fresno summarily and egotistically dismissed by the Legislature and along with it, the hopes and dreams of thousands of our most needy children? We both know the answer to both of those questions – no.

CITY OF FRESNO  
CITY HALL • 2600 FRESNO STREET • FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721-3600  
(559) 621-8000 • FAX (559) 621-7990

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
August 28, 2006  
Page 2

Since we don't have the political capability for intimidation here in the Valley that you and Speaker Nunez wield at the State level, I guess all I can say is shame on you, brother. But this I vow to you and the Speaker – I will do everything I can to expose this action for just what it is, political deal making at it's worst that puts the desire for power over the well-being of our most disadvantaged children.

Sincerely,



Alan Autry  
Mayor

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Speaker Nunez  
Senator Denham  
Senator Florez  
Senate Education Committee  
Assembly Education Committee