

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, voters approved Proposition 49 which provides a continuous appropriation of over \$550 million annually to provide students in low-income communities access to safe, enriching after-school programs in the areas of academic assistance, enrichment activities, and recreational activities; the implementation of the ballot measure began in 2006 with the After School Education and Safety Program (Program); and

WHEREAS, on average, schools participating in the Program have more than 80% of their student population eligible for free and reduced price meals; and

WHEREAS, the California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance (CA3) has reported that the Program provides funding for over 4,000 elementary and middle schools throughout the State and serves more than 400,000 students daily; of the 400,000 participants, 110,000 are in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) which includes 25,000 in the LA's BEST After School Enrichment Program, 12,500 in Woodcraft Rangers, 13,182 in After-School All-Stars, and 2,500 in A World Fit for Kids; and

WHEREAS, CA3 also reports that 41 percent of Los Angeles public school students who regularly attend after-school programs scored as proficient or advanced on the English Language portion of the California Standards Test, as compared to 32 percent of non-participants; in addition, students who regularly attend these programs gain up to 115 additional days of learning time, which is critical to closing the academic achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, a study released by the University of California, Irvine determined that low-performing students in the Program were 53 percent less likely to be held back a grade in elementary school than similar non-participants, and that participants also were more likely to move out of the bottom quartile on standardized reading and math tests; and

WHEREAS, insufficient funding levels have hindered the ability of the Program to attract and retain quality staff which has resulted in reduced staffing hours, reduced professional development, the abandonment of specialized instruction, and fewer spaces for children in the Program; and

WHEREAS, working parents rely on safe and effective after-school programs to enable them to work additional hours to support their families, while children depend on these programs to obtain valuable skills during a high crime period of the day; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is currently considering AB 2663 (Cooper), which would appropriate additional funds for the Program and would require the State to increase grant amounts annually; and

WHEREAS, AB 2663 would keep effective after-school programs accessible for children and families, and will also increase educational outcomes for students in LAUSD;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 2663 (Cooper), which would appropriate additional funds for the After School Education and Safety Program and require funds to increase as the Consumer Price Index increases.

PRESENTED BY: _____

DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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