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August 25, 2026

RE: Opposition to Proposed Amendment to Education Code § 42127.6(k)

Dear Senator Ashby,

We are writing in our individual capacities as Trustees of the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education to ask that you oppose any late session amendment to Education Code § 42127.6(k) that would require approval from the President of the State Board of Education, or the President's designee, before the State can act when county fiscal oversight has not resolved a district's financial problems.

Our concern comes from direct experience. Sacramento City Unified is currently working through serious fiscal challenges, and we have participated in every meeting involving our District, the Sacramento County Office of Education, and the California Department of Education on these issues.

These have been difficult conversations, but we are working through them. That work depends on trust, clear expectations, and everyone understanding the rules that govern the process.

Changing those rules now, while districts like ours are actively working through fiscal oversight, would undermine that trust. A major change in who has authority during a fiscal crisis should not be added in the final days of the legislative session without full discussion and input from the school districts and locally elected boards that will be directly affected.

We are also concerned about the timing because the Legislature and Governor just enacted AB 181, which significantly restructures California's education governance system beginning in 2027. Among other changes, authority currently exercised by the Superintendent of Public Instruction under Section 42127.6 will move to the new Education Commissioner.

AB 181 was intended to create clearer lines of authority and accountability. In related fiscal provisions, it also removed an existing role for the President of the State Board of Education in certain concurrence decisions. Just weeks after making that change, we do not understand why we would now create a new approval role for the State Board President under Section 42127.6 before the new governance structure has even taken effect.

We support strong fiscal oversight and appropriate safeguards before the State exercises extraordinary authority. There should be clear standards, written findings, transparency, notice, and meaningful review. But adding another individual who can block or delay the State's final fiscal backstop is not the right safeguard, especially when timely action may

be necessary to protect students, employees, taxpayers, and the financial stability of a district.

If Section 42127.6 needs to be reconsidered, that discussion should happen through the regular legislative process with hearings, public testimony, and meaningful participation from school districts and elected governing boards.

We respectfully ask that you oppose this amendment in any legislative vehicle and oppose any effort to waive normal procedures to enact it in the closing days of session.

Please also let us know if this language is placed into a bill or other legislative vehicle.

Sincerely,



Tara Jeane, SCUSD Board President



Jasjit Singh, Esq., SCUSD Trustee Area 2 and Immediate Past President



Chinua Rhodes, SCUSD Trustee Area 5