



# California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

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**DRISHA LEGGITT**

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Fiona Ma & Ted Lieu  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95820

Position: Oppose

Location: Assembly Education Committee

Re: AB 223 (Ma & Lieu) Physical education: Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Dear Assemblymembers Ma & Lieu:

The California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) is a non-profit and diverse group of more than 4,000 professional educators whose mission is the "passionate promotion of active, healthy lifestyles." Members take a strong stand for quality programs in Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance, and other movement-related activities vital to the citizens of California.

CAHPERD does not support AB 223 because of the nature of its proposal and the ill effects it will have on the education of California's students should it become law.

Clearly recognizing the health, educational, and economical values of a citizenry that was equipped to engage in an active lifestyle, California's policy makers made sound decisions decades ago to include physical education in the required course of study for all students in grades 1-12. Those needs of health, activity, and education, have become even more vital in California today and cannot be abandoned or exchanged for anything other than high quality physical education instruction.

Classes and activities that include some physical activity such as JROTC, have important but distinctly different goals and objectives than physical education. Any opportunity that provides students opportunity to participate in sustained periods of meaningful physical activity should be encouraged, and provided by our schools when possible. However, these activities do not provide a comprehensive standards-based physical education and should not be allowed to fulfill the requirement for physical education. The outcomes of physical education mustn't be confused nor exchanged; they form the foundation of a healthy and productive life, are only acquired through instruction in physical education in our schools, and simply stated are not the same as JROTC. Therefore we can not support AB 223.

If you have questions or wish additional information, please contact our legislative advocate, Ms. Kathryn Lynch at (916) 443-0202.

Keith Johannes  
Legislative Chair

cc: Paul Navarro, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office  
Members of the Assembly Education Committee  
Chelsea Kelley, Consultant, Assembly Education Committee  
Robert Becker, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance  
Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate

2009 Annual CAHPERD State Conference u "Shaping our Future"  
March 19-22, 2009 u Hyatt Hotel & Santa Clara Convention Center