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July 1, 2009

The Honorable Mary Salas
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1569: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Salas:

The Association of California School Administrators has reviewed your amended AB 1569 and is pleased to support this measure. AB 1569 will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on July 8, 2009.

AB 1569 provides students with additional opportunities to meet the state's physical education requirement by counting participation in marching band, drill team, dance team, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and California Cadet Corps toward meeting the PE instructional minutes required under current law. Provisions within the bill ensure credentialed teachers oversee the various programs offered and require strict standards.

AB 1569 does not mandate that the various programs be counted towards the PE requirement. Instead, it provides school districts the opportunity to address this issue at the local level with student, teacher, parent and community input. Without this flexibility, many students will be unable to meet the PE credit and continue in these valuable programs – often the very programs that keep students enrolled in high school. And the programs that are being targeted in AB 1569 are highly rigorous and often produce better fitness results than traditional PE courses.

ACSA has heard from a number of high school principals and parents who are concerned about the lack of flexibility for their students participating in the abovementioned programs. As students continue to meet all that is required of them throughout the school day, AB 1569 provides a balanced approach to assist in this endeavor.

For these reasons, ACSA supports AB 1569.

Sincerely,

Laura Preston
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the Senate Education Committee
Kathleen Chavira, Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Roger Mackensen, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus