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May 1, 2017

*By electronic mail*

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 842 (Gipson) – SUPPORT AS AMENDED, March  
23, 2017**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Public Advocates supports AB 842 (Gipson), to provide schools with grant funds to establish and operate community schools. Community schools are school sites that convene a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources to focus on student health and real-world problem solving that promotes academic achievement.

Public Advocates is a civil rights legal organization that has served as a key voice for educational equity in landmark cases such as *Serrano v. Priest* and *Williams v. California*. Our commitment to “making rights real” has shaped our vision of building an educational system that prepares all students for college and career readiness, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, place of residency, language, or immigration status. At the forefront of this work are policy-based efforts to strengthen student and parent voices within their community so that they can be empowered to be leaders in their school environment.

As early and vocal supporters of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Public Advocates has consistently advocated for adequate and equitable funding for California’s students. In addition to emphasizing student and parent engagement, the community schools model in AB 842 will build on LCFF by supporting community stakeholder collaboration that can address the consequences of poverty and provide all children with an opportunity to thrive, especially for wraparound supports such as physical and mental health services, social services, and academic enrichment programs.

For these reasons, we support AB 842. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Liz Guillen  
Director of Legislative & Community Affairs  
(916) 803-5596 – cell

Cc: Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson

