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April 17, 2017

By electronic mail

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 328 (Portantino) – SUPPORT AS AMENDED,
APRIL 26, 2017**

Dear Senator Lara:

Public Advocates supports SB 328 (Portantino), as amended on April 26, 2017. This bill would prohibit middle and high schools from beginning their school day before 8:30 a.m.

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*. We work to reverse inequities and ensure meaningful access to opportunity for students most affected by systemic injustices. Public Advocates, along with our community partners, worked closely with Governor Brown to ensure that fiscal accountability is implemented with the new school funding formula, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). To make real the promise of a quality education, we continue in our work with community organizations to advance equitable opportunities for low-income students, students of color, English Learners, and foster youth.

Research on sleep deprivation and adolescents has found benefits to school schedules that make it more likely that students will get eight hours of sleep. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association (AMA), and the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adolescents can suffer significantly from sleep deprivation because of early school start times that are detrimental to cognitive development. Currently, the average school start time for students is 8:07 a.m., however, local school districts are not provided with guidance about appropriate start times that promote students' safety, health, and positive learning outcomes.

Multiple research has demonstrated that school boards which have implemented an 8:30 a.m. or later start times have found increased attendance rates, grade point averages, state assessment scores, college

admissions test scores, student attention, and student and family interaction.

For these reasons, Public Advocates supports SB 328 (Portantino). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Guillen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Anthony Portantino