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COMMITTEES  
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE  
BUDGET  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON  
STATE ADMINISTRATION  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

July 26, 2024

Superintendent Tony Thurmond  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Dear Superintendent Thurmond:

I am reaching out to you as a follow up to recent action that has taken place involving the Redlands Unified School District in response to instances of sexual assault and the sexual harassment of its students, including harm perpetrated by employees of the district.

As you know, the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights announced earlier this year that the Redlands Unified School District had entered into a resolution agreement to remedy violations of Title IX, given that the district did not notice several instances of sexual harassment and abuse at their school sites. Subsequently, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced a stipulated judgment with the school district. This judgment included a number of remedies including a minimum of five years of oversight by the court and Attorney General to ensure the district is responding in a legally adequate manner to address sexual harassment, assault, and abuse on any of its campuses.

Although I appreciate the Redlands Unified School District's cooperation with investigations conducted by both the US Department of Education and the Attorney General's Office, I am appalled by what has taken place. The school district failed to protect our students and I believe that it is imperative that we review the process and protocols in place that can be used to keep our children safe. Specifically I believe that, as a part of this review, we must reevaluate and reassess the Uniform Complaint Process (UCP) facilitated by the California Department of Education (CDE). This process can serve as a vital tool to ensure there are efficient and transparent processes for whistleblowers to elevate concerns to the department for investigation. I am committed to working with you to ensure the UCP is resourced to ensure the safety of our children.

We cannot allow instances like what occurred at Redlands Unified to happen at any school site in California and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloise", is placed above the printed name.

ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES  
Assemblymember, 50<sup>th</sup> District