

California
Rural Legal
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VIA FACSIMILE (916-323-2263)

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: OPPOSITION TO APPOINTMENT OF RANEENE
BELISLE TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Dear Senator Steinberg:

I write on behalf of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation to request that you oppose the confirmation of the appointment of Raneene Belisle to the State Board of Education ("state board").

From 1997 to 2004—in her role as Chief Counsel to, and Executive Director of the state board—Ms. Belisle demonstrated through words and actions her refusal to consider the educational needs of over 1.3 million English learners. Now, as then, her uncompromising adherence to a "one size fits all" philosophy will cause great and irreparable harm to California's 1.5 million English learners by impacting textbook adoptions, statewide testing policies, and professional development for teachers and administrators. Ms. Belisle's uncompromising position and refusal to consider the needs of English learners cannot be countenanced by confirming her appointment to the state board.

If you require additional details or clarification I can be reached at (916) 600-8819.

Respectfully,



Santiago Avila-Gomez
Staff Attorney