



GOVERNOR
Edmund G. Brown Jr.

January 10, 2013

To the Members of the Senate and the Assembly of the California Legislature:

California today is poised to achieve something that has eluded us for more than a decade — a budget that lives within its means, now and for many years to come.

We are in this favorable position both because of the huge budget reductions that you have made in the last two years, and because the people voted for Proposition 30.

Under this budget, K-12 school districts will see an increase in funds. School districts serving those students who have the greatest challenges will receive more generous increases — so that all students in California have the opportunity to succeed. This budget also focuses more responsibility and accountability on those who are closest to our students.

This budget proposes annual funding increases for public higher education. The goal is to provide our students with a solid and affordable education. It challenges the leaders of our higher education system to do better by our students by deploying their teaching resources more effectively.

This budget takes the next step to implement federal health care reform. Given the complexity and financial risk, I urge you to expand our health care system in ways that are both affordable and sustainable.

This budget finally puts California on a path to long-term fiscal stability. What must be avoided at all costs is the boom and bust, borrow and spend, of the last decade. Fiscal discipline is not the enemy of democratic governance, but rather its fundamental predicate. That is the spirit that I trust will characterize our work together in the coming year.

With respect,

s/ Edmund G. Brown Jr.

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