



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Board of Supervisors

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Belia Ramos
Chair

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Capitol, Room 5063
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 135 (Dodd) – Media Literacy

Dear Senator Dodd:

The Napa County Board of Supervisors today voted unanimously to support your measure, Senate Bill (SB) 135, that would require the State Board of Education to ensure that media literacy is integrated into social science curricula in public schools.

In the 2016 presidential election, the ascendance and prevalence of "fake news" garnered national attention with false and misleading stories from hoax websites outperforming actual news stories in terms of social media engagement. This flood of intentionally fake content confuses many voters and makes it difficult for them to differentiate between reputable news stories and false or misleading claims. Fake news can skew the democratic process, particularly when these hoax stories attack a particular candidate. Senate Bill 135 requires the State Board of Education to include media literacy in the next revision of instructional materials or curriculum frameworks in social sciences for grades 1 to 12. The bill requires the State Department of Education to make available on its Internet web site a list of resources and materials on media literacy and to ensure that media literacy training opportunities are made available for use in professional development programs for teachers. The goal is to raise awareness among future voters about the quality of information available and to better discern between real news from legitimate sources and fake news from hoax websites and other communications media.

For these reasons, the Board unanimously endorses SB 135 and looks forward to its passage into law.

Sincerely,

Belia Ramos

Chair, Napa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Members, Napa County Board of Supervisors
Leanne Link, Napa County Executive Officer
Paul Yoder/Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih

Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties

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