



Press Release

For Immediate Release: February 5, 2009

Assemblywoman Ma Introduces Legislation to Save JROTC

AB 233 introduced as time begins to run out for JROTC program in San Francisco Schools

San Francisco – Flanked by hundreds of cadets and elected officials today at Lowell High School, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma introduced legislation, Assembly Bill 233, in support of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC). AB223 requires that San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) provide JROTC as an option in meeting the Physical Education (PE) graduation requirements. Without any action, JROTC will be eliminated from San Francisco's public schools in June, 2009.

“This program works - It's a leadership development opportunity for thousands of students and a valuable resource for minority women,” said Assemblywoman Ma. “Last November, San Francisco voters emphatically supported JROTC and the time for the School Board to act is now.”

The mission of the JROTC program is “to motivate young people to be better citizens.” Along with this mission of civic responsibility, the program also fosters character development, leadership skills, and physical fitness. Students of all genders, races, and sexual orientations participate in the JROTC program, and openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender pupils are among the cadets and cadet leadership.

In November 2008, the voters of San Francisco overwhelmingly passed Proposition V, which urged the San Francisco City Unified School District to support the JROTC program by continuing to make it available to students of the district.

“The JROTC program in our San Francisco public schools has provided leadership training and community service opportunities for countless high school students, and I commend Assemblywoman Fiona Ma for her efforts in preserving this invaluable program,” said Supervisor Carmen Chu.

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