



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 6, 2016

Roy Moore, Founder and Executive Director
Be Strong
692B S. Military Trail
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am writing to express my appreciation for Be Strong's work in bullying prevention. Unfortunately, bullying is an issue for many schools in California. Research has shown that there are severe long-term consequences for both the targets and the students exhibiting bullying behavior.

The first step in bullying prevention is to raise awareness of bullying through actions such as surveys of students, parents, and school staff regarding the prevalence of bullying. Once awareness is brought to the issue, it's important to demonstrate how to prevent and address incidents of bullying. This instruction is often accomplished by allowing students to role-play solutions, often learning from those who have been successful in addressing the issue.

I wish you much success in Be Strong's presentation of an anti-bullying assembly at the Inglewood Forum on October 10, 2016 at 10am, featuring keynote speaker Nick Vujicic. I have no doubt that his strong message of anti-bullying, sharing his experiences and demonstration of his ability to overcome challenges, will be impactful.

I applaud your effort to address the issue of bullying, and I'm heartened to hear that this event will reach over one million sixth to twelfth graders in Los Angeles County and additional students in schools across California with a live simulcast. I join you and the Los Angeles County Office of Education as we invest in and support the students in California schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson".

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction