The one clear message from this past year is that children and their families throughout California and the nation face great inequities.

Whether it is income inequality or racial injustice or education access and opportunity, it is our responsibility as PTA members to advocate for laws that address these issues.

“Let us have no more croaking as to what cannot be done; let us see what can be done, and above all see that it is done.”

That admonition from PTA founder, Alice McLellan Birney, over 100 years ago rings true today and should guide our advocacy efforts.

So, what can PTA do? We have to advocate to change many inequitable systems and policies that deny many children the chance to reach their full potential.

“Every policy in every institution in every community in every nation is producing or sustaining either racial inequity or equity between racial groups.”

Ibram X. Kendi, author of How to Be An Anti Racist

How well children do in school is tied directly to how well they are supported at home and in the community. If they are homeless or have unstable housing, if they have health needs that are not addressed, if they hear gunshots from their bedrooms, if their parents are not earning enough to support a family, their chances of success in school and in life are diminished.

That’s why PTA’s agenda for equity not only addresses education but also the economic policies that have left far too many families struggling to make ends meet. A budget really is a reflection of our values.