



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

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September 7, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 577 (Dodd) – California Community College Teacher Credentialing Partnership Pilot Program
Position: SUPPORT – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Community College League of California, I am writing to express our support for SB 577 (Dodd), which would establish the California Community College Teacher Credentialing Partnership Pilot Program to award up to 3 grants, in the amount of \$500,000 each, to collaboratives that would offer one or more teacher credential degree programs at participating community college.

Attracting and keeping quality teachers in California classrooms is a constant challenge, with some areas reaching crisis proportions. While our state's universities host innovative teacher credentialing programs, many communities are not close to an institution that offers a teacher credentialing program, at a detriment to those communities that seek to attract and retain high quality teachers. Further, with about a third of the teaching force nearing retirement, the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning estimates that California will need an additional 100,000 teachers over the next decade. Teacher shortages have become especially acute in areas such as math, science, special education, and career technical education.

Rural districts are especially hard hit. A February 2018 report from the Learning Policy Institute notes that in some small rural districts new teachers had to be hired under emergency-style permits. The same report found that California's teacher shortage disproportionately affected schools serving students from low-income families and students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds because teachers on "emergency style" credentials are twice as likely to teach in California's high-poverty schools.

SB 577 builds on a proven concept of cross-sector collaboration to address workforce needs and education gaps. A key benefit of SB 577 is that it would prioritize grants to collaboratives located in areas of the state with low rates of K-12 credentialed public school teachers and demonstrated market demand.

SB 577 is an important step in addressing California's teacher shortage and is a key building block to continued conversations and partnerships to mitigate this issue. The League appreciates your thoughtful consideration of our support for SB 577 (Dodd). If you have any questions or would like to discuss the League's support of SB 577, please contact me at (916) 245-5040 or lizette@ccleague.org.

Sincerely,

Lizette Navarette
Vice President
Community College League of California

cc:

The Honorable Bill Dodd
Lark Park, Senior Advisor for Policy, Office of the Governor