



April 16, 2019

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 150 (Cooper) as amended March 4, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman O'Donnell:

On behalf of EdVoice, I write to express support for Assembly Bill 150, which would allow a school district, county office of education or charter school to combine any partial coursework credits that were satisfactorily completed in courses within the same subject area when issuing course credit.

California reported 33,563 foster youth attended public schools in the 2018-19 school year. Only about 53% of California's foster youth graduate from high school, compared to 83% of students statewide. Among the many barriers they face, foster youth experience high rates of mobility, transferring schools an average of eight times while in foster care, often losing valuable partial course credit for similar coursework completed at different schools, with different course titles.

Current law does not specify whether partial credits earned in a given subject area are required to be combined with partial credits for similar coursework completed in another district. By not combining those partial course credits for foster youth and other transient student populations who transfer schools, they are forced to repeat coursework – creating yet another hurdle for them to graduate from high school and increasing the chances that they will drop out.

AB 150 removes a barrier for foster and other highly-mobile youth in graduating from high school and seeking out post-secondary academic and employment opportunities. Accordingly, we urge your aye vote.

If you have any questions regarding our position, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lucia".

Bill Lucia
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Jim Cooper, California State Assembly Member, 9th District
Members of the Assembly Education Committee