



May 10, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 221 (C. Garcia) – as amended April 12, 2019 – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

We write in opposition to AB 221, which would prohibit ALL school districts from securing outside help to interview and hire teachers to fill any vacancies, including in schools in high-poverty neighborhoods.

California has a severe teacher shortage. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's (CTC) most recent report on teacher supply indicates 8,224 emergency permits and waivers were issued in 2018. The Learning Policy Institute (LPI) indicates the teacher shortage has continued to grow in urban and rural districts, with 80 percent of districts experiencing a shortage, and 90 percent reporting the shortage as bad or worse. Over 25,500 teachers are retiring or leaving California classrooms every year.

[The Getting Down to Facts II/Learning Policy Institute 2018 report](#) found teacher shortages are more pronounced in certain subject areas—mathematics, science, special education, and bilingual education. And, the shortages are more severe in high poverty schools. ***Over 250,000 students are impacted in California every day by not having a credentialed teacher for some or all of the schoolday.*** Instead of a certificated teacher in their classroom, these students are being supervised by emergency waiver adults as permanent substitutes with fingerprint checks but have no training in the subject matter being taught. ***These students are clearly not receiving an equitable opportunity to learn.***

AB 221 would result in new General Fund costs to school districts and counties to bring all recruitment and training in-house, hire more emergency permit waiver teachers more often, re-

open collective bargaining agreements to force reassignments of existing teachers with more seniority to teach in high poverty schools, and increase class sizes. Instead, California should provide districts more tools to recruit and retain teachers, promote a diverse teaching corps, and provide equity of opportunity across the state.

The Governor's 2019-20 May Revision proposes an increase of nearly \$90 million outside of the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee to augment the state's effort to recruit and retain quailed teachers in hard-to-hire subject matter areas (special education and STEM) and school sites with the highest rates of non-credentialed or waiver teachers by providing loan forgiveness if they stay in the assignment for four years. **AB 221 is contrary to this proposal in the Governor's 2019-20 May Revision.**

AB 221 is bad for kids, bad for teachers and bad for California.

We strongly urge you to oppose advancing AB 221 from the committee when it is heard on suspense.

Respectfully,

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