



March 16, 2021

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

RE: AB 388 (Medina) as introduced – OPPOSE

Dear Chair O'Donnell:

On behalf of EdVoice, I write in opposition to AB 388. The bill proposes changes to certificated service credit and shortens the mandated probationary timeframe to attain permanent status. We believe AB 388 raises reasonable policy issues relating to cumulative probationary service credit for part-time service and instructors in regional occupational centers or programs. However, AB 388 conflates concerns relating to probationary service credit as evidence to shorten the time to permanent status for all certificated staff in local educational agencies serving populations of less than 250 students.

Small districts and counties facing wide enrollment swings are significantly challenged in serving the needs of all students while remaining solvent and avoiding layoffs and arbitrary program and staffing effects of mandatory “last-in-first-out” pink slips. The Legislature intentionally provided school districts and county offices of education serving small populations flexibility in the mandated probationary period to allow them to adjust to enrollment swings while retaining high-quality staff and education programs for all students, including required levels of support for unduplicated students.

Accordingly, we oppose this measure and recommend you hold the bill in Committee. If you have any questions regarding our position, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

Bill Lucia
President

Cc: The Hon. Jose Medina, Assemblymember 61st District
Members, Assembly Education Committee