



July 6, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 388 (Medina) as amended March 16, 2021 – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Portantino:

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 for certain certificated staff.

We believe AB 388 raises reasonable policy issues relating to cumulative probationary service credit for adult education and part-time service and instructors in regional occupational centers or programs. However, AB 388 conflates the cumulation of probationary service credit with shortening the probationary period of all certificated staff in local educational agencies (LEA) 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.

We oppose the shortening of the probationary period as proposed by AB 388. We recommend you hold the bill in Committee or amend the bill to focus statutory changes to time served and eligibility for permanent status, without shortening the probationary period for LEAs with less than 250 students. 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, Senate Appropriations Committee