



March 16, 2021

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

RE: AB 312 (Seyarto) as Introduced – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Chair O'Donnell:

On behalf of EdVoice, I write in opposition to AB 312 unless amended. AB 312 would lower the bar and establish an uneven standard to exempt teacher candidates, substitute teachers and emergency permit holders from the uniform requirement to demonstrate minimum proficiency in basic reading, writing and mathematics skills to teach in a California public school.

Last year, when the Assembly Education Committee considered a similar measure it amended the bill to establish a three-year sunset provision to allow the legislature to review the effect on addressing concerns with COVID-19 related challenges in availability of open teacher certification examination sites and to revisit the workability of the individual transcript and letter grade review proposed by the measure.

California has a constitutional responsibility to ensure every public school classroom is staffed to ensure each individual student is taught by an educator that has a basic understanding of reading, writing, and mathematics. AB 312 would establish an uneven and unnecessarily costly exemption in lieu of a uniform minimum protection of demonstrated minimum basic proficiency for students taught by novice teachers, long term substitutes, and emergency permit holders often assigned to schools in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to hold AB 312 in committee unless amended to include a sunset date, a revision of the letter grade in coursework approach to earning of an Associate Degree or Baccalaureate Degree in the specified disciplines, and a report to the Legislature on the effect of exemptions granted. If you have any questions regarding our concerns and recommended amendments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

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

Bill Lucia
President

CC: The Hon. Kelly Seyarto, Assemblymember 67th District
Members, Assembly Education Committee