



April 16, 2019

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

**RE: AB 578 (Mullin) as amended March 25, 2019 – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman O'Donnell:

On behalf of the EdVoice Board of Directors, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 578, which would establish the California STEM Professional Teaching Pathways grant program to help recruit, train, support and retain qualified science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professionals into the teaching profession.

California is facing a serious shortage of teachers – especially in STEM subjects. The shortage, which some survey data show affects nearly 75% of school districts, is especially concentrated in districts that serve the state's most vulnerable students. Attracting high-achieving, qualified people to the teaching profession is clearly a critical need and one that AB 578 seeks to address.

AB 578 encourages creative solutions to help ease the teacher shortage, boost the pipeline of high-quality candidates into teaching, and facilitate the rapid achievement of teaching credentials by STEM professionals so that every kid in California can have access to effective teachers. 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 Kevin Mullin, California State Assembly Member, 22<sup>nd</sup> District  
Members of the Assembly Education Committee