



September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 488 (Rubio) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of EdVoice, we respectfully request your signature on SB 488, which clarifies the role of the state in maintaining content validity in licensure exams, accreditation criteria, and oversight of schools of education to ensure novice teachers are provided training in the science of reading so that all children become fluent readers and read to learn.

Overwhelming empirical evidence supports using science-based instructional strategies in teaching foundational skills to all students, including struggling readers, English learners and children with dyslexia to improve literacy outcomes. Teacher candidates in lower grades and education specialists must continue to be required to demonstrate that they can teach a child to read. Single subject English language arts candidates must be trained how to identify and refer struggling readers for help. And, schools of education (getting paid tuition) must provide the training to candidates to ensure novice teachers know how to teach all students to read successfully.

SB 488 also establishes a framework with transparency and legislative oversight to transition to a performance based candidate licensure requirement to demonstrate competency in science-based reading instruction. Importantly, SB 488 maintains California's statutory commitment to strong empirical evidence on the foundational skills and instructional strategies to support early reading and reading comprehension.

If you have any questions regarding our recommendation, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

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

Bill Lucia, President

Cc: The Honorable Susan Rubio, California State Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> District  
Joey Freeman, Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Brooks Allen, Education Policy Advisor to the Governor and Executive Director, State Board of Education