



March 26, 2021

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

RE: AB 839 (O'Donnell) as amended March 25, 2021 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair O'Donnell:

On behalf of EdVoice, I write in support of your Assembly Bill 839. AB 839 would appropriate \$150 million in funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) program above the current funding level. This adjustment is needed to meet established student demand for high quality CTE programs. Students who participate in high-quality career and technical education are more likely to graduate from high school, earn industry credentials, enroll in college, and have higher rates of employment and higher earnings.

Successful CTE programs require stable and predictable funding to maintain partnerships with business, labor and local colleges. And, up-to-date equipment and technology is necessary to provide real-world career preparation opportunities. Inadequate funding over several years has made it difficult to maintain partnerships and made it difficult to recruit and retain skilled teachers who are proficient in high-demand fields like health care, technology and manufacturing.

This measure is directly responsive to known ongoing demand for quality career technical education programs by California secondary school students. Accordingly, we strongly support AB 839 and stabilizing funding for quality CTE programs at the appropriate level.

Sincerely,

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

Bill Lucia
President & CEO

Cc: Members, Assembly Education Committee