

Zaragoza-Diaz & Associates

Martha Zaragoza-Diaz

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 7, 2018
To: CABE Board Members
From: Martha Zaragoza Diaz, Lobbyist
Subject: Legislative Report

I. Sponsored Bills

AB 2514 (Thurmond) Pathways to Success Grant Program. Amended
CABE and Californians Together are the sponsors of AB 2514 (Thurmond) Pathways to Success Grant Program. This bill proposes to provide start-up funding for school districts interested in establishing or expanding their dual language immersion or developmental bilingual programs or to establish bilingual early learning dual language learner programs. The grant program is for 3 years, awards up to \$300,000 to a grantee and funds a minimum of 10 school districts who meet grant requirements. Funding could be used for purposes such as recruitment of bilingual educators, teacher coaches, ongoing professional development of teachers, outreach to parents and parent engagement. The CDE will administer the grant program.

The bill was amended to include two co-authors, Assembly Members Cervantes and Gonzalez Fletcher as well as addressing concerns raised by the consultant of the Assembly Committee.

The bill passed off the Assembly Floor with 65 aye votes and 9 no votes on May 29, 2018. It is now in the Senate Rules Committee waiting to be assigned to the Senate Education Committee. A hearing date has not been scheduled.

We are working to secure a budget appropriation of \$5 million dollars for the purposes of this bill. This has not yet happened. Please respond to any action alerts that seek your letters and faxes on this issue.

Stay tuned.

AB 2735 (O'Donnell) English Learners: Access to Core Courses. Amended May 2, 2018.

This bill would specify that, except as provided, a middle or high school pupil who is classified as an English learner and scores at any proficiency level on the assessment of English language development, shall not be denied participation in a school's standard instructional program, as defined, by being denied enrollment in specified courses, including, among others, courses required for graduation and college admission.

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The bill was amended to include Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher as an author along with Assembly Member O'Donnell and to include the following co-authors; Assembly Members McCarty and Reyes and Senators Dodd and Weiner. It was also amended to specifically state that this would be operational in the 2019-2020 school year and to define "pupil" as a pupil attending a school by a school district, county office of education, charter schools or state special schools for the blind and the deaf.

It was heard in Assembly Education Committee on May 6, 2018 where it received 6 aye votes and 0 no votes! Our illustrious board member, Barbara Flores testified in support of the bill on behalf of CABE.

The bill now will proceed to the Senate Appropriations Committee. A hearing date has not been scheduled.

II. Status on 2018-2019 State Budget Requests-Education

Attached is CABE's letter outlining our education budget requests for 2018-2019 education component of the proposed state budget. (Please note the final letter was formatted on CABE letterhead.) Californians Together submitted a similar letter. This letter was forwarded to the members of the Assembly and the Senate Sub-Committees on Education Finance.

I met with **all** the staff of the members of the subcommittees on our budget requests and when asked for additional information, I provided that information. I testified before the sub-committee hearings on **all** of these budget requests. When appropriate, I testified in collaboration with Children Now on the ELA/ELD professional development request and with Early Edge and Advancement Project on their budget request for professional development for ECE teachers on best practices and strategies on instruction for dual language learners.

I was successful in having the Assembly Budget Sub-Committee approve our requests for:

- \$5 million one-time funding for the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development program.
- \$5 million one-time funding for professional development of ECE teachers on best practices and strategies for instruction of dual language learners.

Additionally, we supported CDE's request for funding of the computer-based assessment for the Alternate ELPAC. Funding will be included in the state budget for this purpose but the specific amount is still being negotiated.

These approvals and recommendations were forwarded to the full Assembly Budget Committee for approval and inclusion in the Assembly version of the education state budget.

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Two of our budget requests were not taken up by the legislative budget Sub-Committees on Education Finance. They are:

- **Title III Technical Assistance County Office of Education Leads.** We oppose redirecting the Title III COE Title III Leads funding of \$2 million dollars and request that this \$2 million be restored. This funding would be combined or “braided” with other federal technical assistance funding sources to create support to LEA’s. While we understand the intent of this action, it comes at the worst time possible for EL programs statewide. Without these Leads, direct support to LEAs for critical issues impacting ELs will be difficult to provide or meet. I still do not know who proposed this. I was told that it was proposed by the “Administration”. Meetings were held with CDE, SBE and the Governor’s Office on our request but to no avail. Therefore, a campaign has been launched to convince members of the Budget Conference Committee targeted to not redirect the \$2 million and restore the funding to the COEs. Helping us on this effort is CCESA and their members as well from the County Offices of Education. You should have received several Action Alerts on this. We will continue with the campaign until the Conference Committee takes a vote on this budget request.
- **One-time \$5 million for additional support to LEAs for the expansion of or establishment of new dual language immersion or developmental bilingual programs or establishment of dual language learner/early childhood education programs.** Neither one of the Budget Sub-Committees included this budget request in their recommendations to their Budget Committees. In spite of the fact that Assembly Member included this budget request in his request to the Assembly leadership, it did not get included in the Senate or Assembly versions of the State Budget. HOWEVER, all is not lost! Assembly Member Thurmond approached Senator Hueso and Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher, to write a letter to the Chairpersons of the Budget Conference Committee, on behalf of the Legislative Latino Caucus, to include the \$5 million for this purpose in the State Budget!! Inclusion of a \$5 million dollars appropriation would enable the implementation of AB 2514 (Thurmond)! (Please see attached letter.) A letter writing campaign to the members of the Budget Conference Committee on this budget request has begun. Additionally, calls and meetings are being made to Assembly Member Arambula, a member of the Conference Committee, to raise this budget request in the full Budget Conference Committee.

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All of these budget items will be discussed and voted on by the Legislative 2018 Budget Conference Committee for inclusion in the 2018-29-2019 State Budget since some of these budget requests are not included in the Senate version of the education component of the State Budget and some of the budget requests are not included at all.

Members of the 2018 Budget Conference Committee are: Assembly Members Phil Ting, Joaquin Arambula, Richard Bloom, Rocky Chavez and Jay Obernolte and Senators Holly J. Mitchell, Nancy Skinner, Richard Roth, John M.W. Moorlach, and Jim Nielsen.

Budget hearings have been held by the Conference Committee over the past several weeks however action (voting) has not occurred on the education budget requests. Please stay tuned for further updates and please respond to Action Alerts sent to you.