

# Zaragoza-Diaz & Associates

## Martha Zaragoza-Diaz

### MEMORANDUM

Date: March 30, 2020

To: CABE Board Members

Subject: Legislative Update

From: Martha Zaragoza, Lobbyist

Cc: Jan Gustafson Corea, C.E.O.

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#### I. California Legislature

The Legislature is on Interim Recess until April 13, 2020 or unless called back into session by Leadership of both houses. This means **all** committee hearings have been cancelled, legislators are in their district offices (you need to call to determine if they are open) and capitol legislative staff are working from home and continuing to do their work. Our co-sponsored bills were scheduled to be heard in the first two weeks in April, however that has now changed. I expect to see a very heavy agenda for all committee hearings upon their return on April 13, 2020. Stay tuned for further information.

#### II. Sponsored Legislation

##### **AB 2516 (Reyes) Teachers: Professional Development: Bilingual and Dual Language Grant Programs**

This bill is co-sponsored with CABE, Californians Together, Early Edge, Advancement Project, Children Now and Moms Rising. Amendments will be made to the bill clarifying who will be receiving professional development and allowing current BTPD grantees to apply for funds if demonstrated evidence is provided that a shortage of bilingual teachers continues. A policy committee hearing date on the bill has not been scheduled.

##### **AB 2602 (Jones-Sawyer) Biliteracy Education**

This bill is sponsored by CABE and Californians Together. In its current version the bill is a spot bill stating that the intent of the bill is to improve biliteracy education. The bill will be amended to delete all of the sections pertaining to the postsecondary Badge of Biliteracy due to major opposition by the CSU and UC systems. What will remain in the bill is the language amending the statute of the State Seal of Biliteracy allowing LEAs to develop their own language proficiency assessments in languages other than English. The county or school district

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superintendent will have to certify that the level of proficiency in the language other in English is equivalent to that required to pass an advanced placement or international baccalaureate examination. The bill has not been scheduled for a policy committee hearing.

### III. Covid-19

As you all know, the corona virus has had a disastrous impact on the public, businesses and education. Governor Newsom has called for a “shelter in place” for everyone until further notice. Schools are closed and teachers are having to provide instruction via “distance learning”. The governor has released many “Executive Orders” to deal with the problems arising from Covid-19, the Executive Order specific to school funding. For those of you interested in reading the Executive Orders, here is the link to do so:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/category/executive-orders/>.

On Governor Newsom’s website is a link to the California Department of Public Health website and Covid 19. Please refer to this link to stay on-top of the latest news regarding Covid 19: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>. This website also has some of its updates in Spanish. This should be read on a daily basis.

### IV. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Thurmond: Covid-19 Response

The California Department of Education (CDE) is monitoring the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and working closely with agency partners. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are encouraged to follow California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommendations. LEAs should identify plans for communicating with families and consider learning supports for school closures.

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond today hosted a webinar on March 18, 2020, for district, school and county office education leaders to walk through several new state guidance documents, covering the areas of distance learning, special education, meals/nutrition services, and child care support.

To view the guidance document and for more information about coronavirus (COVID-19), please see the [CDE’s Coronavirus web page](#) : .

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>.

Please go to the following links that pertain to school closures and Services to Students with Disabilities

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/specialedcovid19guidance.asp>), guidance on how districts can provide distance learning opportunities for students

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/distancelearning.asp>), resources that support

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distance learning (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/appendix1.asp>), multilingual resources can be found in the support distance learning resources and a table of plans providing internet access (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/availableinternetplans.asp>) and new guidance on Covid-19 (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/guidance.asp>).

The California Department of Education will issue updates to districts every Friday, in addition to issuing new and updated guidance as the need arises. Please check CDEs website on a regular basis.

### **V. ACA 5 (Weber) Government Preferences, Introduced Jan. 18, 2020**

The California Constitution, pursuant to enacted Proposition 209 of 1996, prohibits the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. The California Constitution defines the state for these purposes to include the state, any city, county, public university system, community college district, school district, special district, or any other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of, or within, the state. ACA 5 would repeal these provisions.

This bill requires a 2/3 vote for passage by both houses, the California Senate and the Assembly. The governor cannot veto the measure once it receives a 2/3 vote in both houses, nor does the measure require a governor signature. Once approved by both houses of the California legislature, an initiative will be placed on the November 3, 2020 general election ballot.

Attached are several documents on ACA 5; the bill itself and Take Action. CABE has been requested to endorse ACA 5. Further discussion with CABE's CEO and Legal Counsel as to the implications of endorsing ACA as an organization needs to happen.

Stay tuned for further legislative updates!

**Zaragoza-Diaz & Associates**  
**Martha Zaragoza-Diaz**