

MURDOCH WALRATH & HOLMES

MEMORANDUM

To: CABE Board Members
Jan Gustafson-Corea, CEO

From: Jennifer Baker, Legislative Advocate

Subject: Legislative Update

Date: March 9, 2022

The Legislature has shifted itself into high gear by holding numerous hearings of the Governor's proposed budget. They have also passed the deadline to introduce bills and have begun holding bill hearings. The total cumulative number of bills introduced during the 2021-22 Legislative session is 4,365. I have been actively engaged at the legislative and budgetary levels within the halls of the Legislature advancing CABE's priorities. Thanks to the tremendous collaboration taking place with Californian's Together (CalTog), we have been able to hold numerous meetings with legislative and budget leadership regarding our joint priorities.

Budget: CABE and CalTog share a number of budget priorities, which are summarized in the attached joint budget letter. Cristina Salazar, CalTog's Legislative Advocate and I have had meetings with both Assembly and Senate budget staff, as well as key fiscal advisors to advance our joint priorities. Our meetings have been very successful with keen interest in both Legislative houses in our priorities. We have also engaged the Department of Finance who was also very positive about the possibility of including our budget priorities in the budget.

In addition to budget meetings, testimony has been provided in support of our budget priorities during key budget hearings. Both additional testimony and budget meetings will remain a focus as I work to secure the inclusion of CABE's priorities into overall 2022-23 Budget Act.

Co-Sponsored Legislation: We now have three co-sponsored bills, which are beginning to be set for hearings. A significant number of meetings and advocacy has been taking place to support all sponsored bills. All three of these bills have a concurrent budget appropriation request, requiring meetings with budget staff, as well as policy staff.

AB 1701 (Medina): CSU Jump Start Grant Program – would create a grant program within the California State University (CSU) system to increase student enrollment in bilingual authorization programs through the recruitment and retention of full-time faculty in bilingual

authorization programs through its Schools and Colleges of Education. Both CAFE and CalTog are co-sponsors.

We have been working diligently with our CSU partners and CalTog to draft amendments to the bill that would further enhance its goals and clarify how it will work. The bill will be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on March 15th. To build support for the measure, CAFE sent out a Legislative Alert on March 8th to our partners. During the March 15th hearing, Professor and Chair Fay Shin, Ph.D. with the Department of Teachers Education at CSU Long Beach, will provide testimony on behalf of CAFE.

AB 1838 (Rivas) Long-Term English Learners Data – would disaggregate data in order to strengthen California’s guidance and resources to ensure Long-Term English Learners students are correctly identified and provided with targeted interventions that best meet their needs. Both CAFE and CalTog are co-sponsors.

We are working with the California Department of Education (CDE) on providing clarifying amendments as well as assessing what the fiscal cost of implementation would be. The bill has not yet been set for a hearing but has been referred to the Assembly Education Committee where it will likely be heard in either late March or early April.

SB 952 (Limon) Dual Language Immersion – would expand the number of schoolwide dual-language immersion programs in California by creating grants for school districts to pay the costs related to securing bilingual educators, training programs, curriculum, materials, and other necessary start-up costs to convert to dual language immersion schools. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is the primary sponsor and both CAFE and CalTog are co-sponsors.

We are working with the CDE and CalTog on amendments to specify exactly how this grant program would work, which should be in print within the next week or two. The bill has not yet been referred to the Senate Education but should be sent within the next week. It will likely receive its first policy hearing in April.

CAFE Bill Positions: The Legislative Committee adopted the following positions on March 1st. Four of the seven bills have been referred to policy committees. Support letters for those bills have been sent out to those committees. As each additional bill is referred, a support letter will be sent out accordingly. Copies of the support letters are attached.