

MURDOCH WALRATH & HOLMES

MEMORANDUM

To: CABE Board Members
Jan Gustafson-Corea, CEO

From: Jennifer Baker, Legislative Advocate

Subject: Legislative Update

Date: June 17, 2022

The Legislature is wrapping up as much work as possible by the start of its summer recess, which begins on July 1st. All bills must pass their final policy committee by the July 1st date in order to move forward this session. In addition to finishing up policy hearings, the Legislature plans to begin budget negotiations with the Governor and pass a number of budget trailer bills prior to the recess. While the Legislature did pass SB 154 (Skinner), the 2022-23 State Budget Bill, it is important to note this is primarily a budget shell. Typically, this bill includes the final agreement between the Legislature and Governor. Unfortunately, this bill is merely a placeholder intended to meet the State Budget deadline while negotiations continue among the Big Three; the Governor and the leaders of both Houses of the Legislature.

The Governor's office has expressed the disappointment that there are unresolved differences in fiscal relief to Californians due to rising fuel prices and inflation. It is possible that budget details may shift during final negotiations. Once the final details emerge and are solidified, I will provide a budget update with those details. It is likely that we may see a fragmented process with chunks of budget trailer bills passed prior to the summer recess while saving some of the final details for the end of the legislative session in August.

Unfortunately, CABE suffered a setback by not being able to get traction within the Administration or the Legislature on the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Grant request, of which both CABE and Californians Together collectively had advocated for. While continued advocacy has persisted (see budget letter included), traction has been elusive. I will be working on creating a strategic plan for building legislative support for this over the fall to try to get it integrated into next year's budget discussion and will share updates as this plan is further developed.

Some positive news was a small inclusion of Educator Workforce Investment Grant (EWIG) funding for English learners included in the Governor's May Revision. Unfortunately, the funds for this program were not provided with General Fund dollars, but instead with Proposition 98 funding. Further, the amount of funding was not sufficient to continue to meet California's needs. While this was not CABE's preference, I was informed by both the Department of Finance as well as legislative budget staff that there was not an ability to provide this funding through General Fund dollars due to some of the complexities of balancing the overall budget within the

boundaries of the State Appropriations Limit. Thanks to some quick advocacy, it was discovered that the Legislature is working behind the scenes to ensure there is a path for CAFE and CalTog to be able to continue working with these programs. The final trailer bill language has not yet been released but may emerge just prior to the summer recess. It is our hope that the final trailer bill language as well as the total amount appropriated will be able to continue to move this successful program forward.

Co-Sponsored Legislation:

I am sorry to share that **AB 1701 (Medina)** did not move out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This important bill would have created the Jump Start 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. The staff working on bills moving through Appropriations held a significant number of bills back this year. While ours was not the only one that did not move forward, this news dealt a blow to California's efforts to ensure it is effectively mitigating the bilingual teacher shortage. When it was realized that the legislative effort was not able to move forward, significant efforts were taken to try to achieve this goal through the budget process. Unfortunately, a number of factors beyond CAFE's control prevented this goal from being achieved. Efforts are already underway to continue this discussion with the Legislature next year and to consider a new bill and budget conversation.

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.

I am pleased to report that this has been receiving strong bipartisan support. It was passed with full support out of the Senate Education Committee on June 15th and will likely be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee in early August.

SB 952 (Limon) Dual Language Immersion – Was initially expanding the number of schoolwide dual-language immersion programs but was amended in the Assembly Education Committee on June 15th to instead expand the existing dual language immersion programs to clarify that the programs funded may be strands within schools or school-wide programs, increase the grant amounts, expand the size of the program, expand the eligible expenses for the use of grant funds, expand the responsibilities of the California Department of Education in administering the program, expand the reporting requirements as well as to maintain the findings and declarations that were initially included in SB 952. As a result of these amendments, the bill received full bipartisan support from the Assembly Education Committee and is now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee where it may likely be heard in August.

CAFE Bill Positions: While a few bills CAFE has taken positions on failed to move out of the Appropriations Committee, many have been moving forward. I am including an updated list of the bills, including their location, as well as support letters for the most recent bill hearings.