April 5, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento CA

RE: Opposition to SB 1411 (Ochoa Bogh)

Dear Senator Caballero:

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California’s education system, EdTrust-West (ETW) must oppose SB 1411 (Ochoa Bogh). This bill would add faculty members from the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC) to the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC). ETW opposes this proposal because it is an effort to change the composition of a state advisory body because proponents of the bill disagreed with a previous decision. The author’s fact sheet references the 2023 Math Framework as an example of the need for the bill.

The 2023 Math Framework was adopted through a fair and open process. As an advisory committee to the State Board of Education (SBE), the IQC is subject to open meetings requirements, which require public notices of meetings and planned decisions, and review and comment periods for consideration of changes to state law. All of these requirements were met in the adoption of the California Math Framework in 2023. In fact, this framework was considered by the IQC multiple times, and released for multiple review and comment periods over several years.

The SBE appoints a committee of K-12 subject matter experts (a Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee) to guide the development of the curriculum frameworks. The California Department of Education also contracts with subject matter consultants to be the authors of a curriculum framework and to be content reviewers in the instructional materials adoption process (a Ph.D. in the content areas is required). In the case of the math framework, all of the framework authors were higher education faculty members in mathematics or mathematics education.
Finally, SB 1411 would set a bad precedent. The bill invites opponents who disagree with a decision from an education governing board, such as the State Board of Education, the UC Board of Regents, or the CSU Board of Trustees, to sponsor legislation to alter the composition of those bodies to increase votes from their allies.

For all of the reasons explained above, we must respectfully oppose SB 1411.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Rivas
Senior Director, Policy and Government Relations
EdTrust-West

cc: Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
    Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
    Lenin Del Castillo, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee