



June 11, 2024

The Honorable Stephen Padilla
State Senator, 18th District
Suite 6640, 1021 O Street
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Support if Amended; SB 995 (Padilla)

Dear Senator Padilla:

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California’s education system, Ed Trust–West (ETW) would be pleased to support your bill, SB 995 (Padilla), if it is amended as explained in this letter. This bill would enact the High-Quality Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. The bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University to develop, in consultation with the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, a 5-year pilot program to commence with the 2025–26 school year to recruit high-quality teaching candidates at 3 California State University campuses in partnership with 3 community college campuses.

The shortage of high-quality teachers is one of our biggest problems in public education. So we appreciate your efforts to strengthen the pipeline. We are requesting the following amendments to strengthen SB 995:

- 1) Target prospective teachers of color, in the recruitment of credential candidates into the High-Quality Teacher Program that would be created. We believe diversity and quality are inseparable.
- 2) Require collection of demographic data on participants in the High-Quality Teacher Program to assess recruitment efforts.
- 3) Require an evaluation of the High-Quality Teacher Program to measure program effectiveness.

We think the above amendments would strengthen SB 995, and would be pleased to support the bill with these changes.



The Education Trust—West
Fierce advocates for educational
justice, pre-k through college.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Rivas
Senior Director, Policy and Government Relations
Ed Trust—West