



California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE CONCERNED WITH TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE OR DIALECT AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION

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June 19, 2010

Hon. Joe Coto
State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1741: SUPPORT
Senate Education Committee
June 23, 2010

Dear Assembly Member Coto:

The California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (CATESOL) has reviewed your AB 1741 and has taken a position of support for the resolution. CATESOL represents a large number of community college faculty that work directly with English language learners.

AB 1741 requires a petition to establish a charter school that will serve at least 15% English learners (ELs) to include specified information related to the instructional program for these pupils and makes findings and declarations relative to interventions for schools identified as persistently lowest-achieving schools for purposes of implementing the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) program and absence of data about the success of ELs in charter schools.

Current law, passed last year, enacted California's "persistently low achieving schools" to choose one of four intervention models. One of those four intervention models is converting to a charter school. Some policymakers have proposed that the expansion of charter schools will be the key to narrowing the English learner achievement gap. However, little longitudinal data is maintained about the success of students who are English learners in charter schools, especially charter schools established as a result of conversion from a low achieving public school. This bill will significantly improve this information shortfall.

Additionally, AB 1741 would ensure that charter schools, including charter schools seeking renewal, are prepared to provide an appropriate and quality education to students who are English learners. This assurance is necessary in light of the fact that a majority of students enrolled in "persistently low achieving schools" will be students who are English learners. For these reasons CATESOL supports the bill.

Again CATESOL supports AB 1741. If we can be of further assistance please contact me at (916) 447-8420.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Frost
CATESOL Legislative Advocate

cc: Senate Education Committee members