



**CCSESA**

## California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

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May 29, 2015

The Honorable Carol Liu  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2083  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### SB 499 (LIU): BEST PRACTICES TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM—OPPOSE

Dear Senator Liu:

On behalf of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), I am writing to inform you that our organization has adopted an "oppose" position on SB 499 as amended in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 499 proposes an inappropriate expansion of the scope of collective bargaining that would negatively impact the ability of locally elected governing boards to meet their responsibility to adopt policies that ensure that all students are making progress towards meeting board-established standards of pupil achievement. This fundamental responsibility is central to the accountability of locally elected officials, to the voters in their communities, and to the students they are elected to serve.

SB 499 would amend current law to remove provisions of law concerning standards of expected student achievement outside of the article that governs the development and implementation of teacher evaluation systems. To promote this disconnect of teacher evaluation from student performance is contrary to the fundamental purpose for which teachers are employed. SB 499 would then further confuse the issues by expanding the scope of bargaining to include the performance standards based on which teachers are evaluated. This would mean that elected officials could not be held directly accountable for those standards. Further, these proposed changes to law would promote a separation of teacher evaluation standards from issues of student performance.

SB 499 would establish new mandates on the system of teacher and administrator evaluation, without a meaningful plan for funding those requirements and defining how they interact with other critical issues of teacher and administrator evaluation, support and dismissal. The bill thus has the effect of making it more likely that districts will fail to meet the new standards and will therefore have an even more difficult time removing low-performing employees.

In our view, SB 499 moves in the wrong direction on the key issues related to teacher and administrator evaluation.

Sincerely,

Sandra Morales, Assistant Executive Director

cc: Kathleen Chavira, Staff Director, Senate Education Committee  
Lenin Del Castillo, Consultant, Senate Education Committee