



August 13, 2020

Members, California State Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2101 (Committee on Public Employment and Retirement)  
Location: Senate Appropriations Committee  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations **support** AB 2101, which conforms state law to the federal Setting Every Community Up for Retirement (SECURE) Act. Additionally, the bill clarifies that paid administrative leave, as well as work performed by an audiometrist who holds a certificate of registration issued by the State Department of Health Care Services, is included as CalSTRS creditable service. Among other proposals, AB 2101 requires penalties and interest overpaid to CalSTRS to be considered additional contributions, to be deposited in the Teachers' Retirement Fund, and to be treated in the same manner as other contributions paid to CalSTRS.

The statutory clarification to the definition of "leave of absence" in the Teachers' Retirement Law will address long-term retirement harm that could cause educators to lose their primary benefits, which may be further impacted by the COVID pandemic. Compensation and the associated service credit for all employer-approved compensated leaves of absence are creditable to CalSTRS. CalSTRS members can be on leave under many different circumstances, and it is generally understood that benefits and pay will not be affected. In order to maintain the current understanding of benefits and pay for California educators, amendments to Education Code section 22144.3 ensure that this type of paid administrative leave and any other types of leave are included in creditable compensation and are, therefore, included in the service credit that is used to determine a member's benefits.

The retirement benefit CalSTRS provides is the cornerstone of retirement savings for this state's educators, and serves as an important recruitment and retention tool, since they do not contribute to Social Security for their work in California schools. Our respective organizations believe in ensuring this benefit continues to be made available to all educational employees, despite being on paid administrative leave.

For these reasons, we urge your AYE vote when AB 2101 (Committee on Public Employment and Retirement) is heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

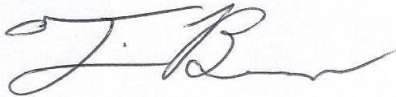
Sincerely,



Seth Bramble, Legislative Advocate  
California Teachers Association



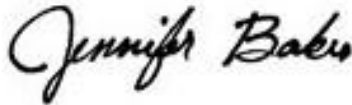
Derick Lennox, Legislative Advocate  
Association of CA School Administrators



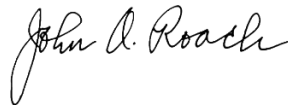
Tristan Brown, Legislative Advocate  
California Federation of Teachers



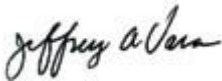
Carlos Machado, Legislative Advocate  
California School Boards Association



Jennifer Baker, Legislative Advocate  
California Retired Teachers Association



John Roach, Executive Director  
School Employers Association of California



Jeffrey A. Vaca, Chief Gov. Relations Officer  
Office of the Riverside County Supt. of Schools



Stephanie Goldman, Associate Director  
Faculty Assoc. of CA Community Colleges



Susan K. Bray, Executive Director  
Assoc. of CA Community College Administrators



Tim Taylor, Executive Director  
Small School Districts' Association



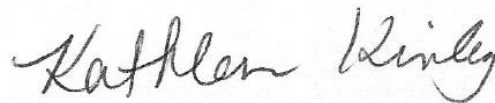
Sara Flocks, Policy Coordinator  
California Labor Federation



Deborah B. Zavala, Legislative Advocate  
Los Angeles Unified School District



Steve Henderson  
Director of Advocacy & Public Affairs  
CA County Supt. Educational Services Assoc.



Kathy Kinley,  
Educational Law & Policy Committee Chair  
Delta Kappa Gamma California