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California's impending teacher shortage

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In just a few short years, thousands of California's public school students will be at risk of not having a qualified teacher in their classroom.

According to research recently released by WestEd, nearly 40 percent of California educators are over the age of 50 and on track for retirement.

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has reported that the number of new teachers continues to fall, with a decline of 23,400 teaching credentials in the past five years.

Teacher morale has hit a low point: according to the 28th annual MetLife Survey of the American Teacher, less than half of teachers are "very satisfied" with their jobs, the lowest it's been in more than two decades.

As these factors start to collide, our state will soon be forced to cope with the aftermath of this perfect storm, which will result in a teacher shortage. California needs to recognize that it will soon be in desperate need of effective, committed individuals who can transition into the classroom.

The California Teacher Corps, the organization which represents California's nearly 70 alternative route to certification programs, is committed to ensuring that students across the state have a highly-qualified and committed teacher at the head of the classroom.

Over 55,000 teachers were recruited and placed by the California Teacher Corps over the last seven years.

Retrained 1,500 laid-off general education teachers and shifted them into special education teaching positions.

Last year, 1,300 math and science teachers

were recruited and placed into the classroom, providing nearly half of California's new math teachers in recent years.

Over 50 percent of our programs directly serve rural, high-need schools.

The Teacher Corps is committed to placing 100,000 highly-qualified teachers in California's communities by 2020 and have made it a priority to fight the impending teacher shortage.

With more than 70 percent of Teacher Corps teachers still on the job after five years, our teachers are dedicated to making a difference in the classroom.

The California Teacher Corps is a non-profit organization established in 2009 with the goal of placing 100,000 highly-qualified teachers in California's communities by 2020. Visit www.cateacher corps.org, for more information.