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Contact: Adam Ratliff
Larson Communications
(415) 722-0739

CA GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET TO ENDANGER TEACHER PIPELINE

Teacher Corps programs prepare in-demand educators with categorical funding to meet California's need for qualified teachers.

Sacramento, CA – The California Teacher Corps, the statewide organization representing California's 70 alternative certification programs, today announced that Governor Jerry Brown's proposed trailer bill to the California budget will endanger the guaranteed \$21.3 million in funding for its teacher preparation programs across the state. This will result in Teacher Corps programs being forced to raise costs for the more than 3,000 teachers currently in their pipeline, and compete for school district funds that are provided for students.

Teacher Corps programs create a vital pipeline of highly-qualified teachers to meet the needs of California's public schools. At a time when one-third of California teachers are set to retire within the decade, Teacher Corps programs are recruiting and training talented individuals and second-career professionals with deep content expertise and professional experience. Over the past seven years, Teacher Corps programs have placed more than 55,000 highly-qualified teachers in California public schools, more than 70 percent of whom are still teaching after five years.

"California's students and schools depend on California Teacher Corps programs to provide a pipeline of highly-qualified teachers to meet their unique needs," said Corinne Muelrath, executive director of the California Teacher Corps. "The elimination of guaranteed funding threatens the infrastructure and survival of needed teacher preparation programs at a time when thousands of educators are set to retire. Without alternative certification programs, California's students and schools will suffer."

The Governor's proposed budget seeks to implement a "local control funding formula" based on a weighted student formula, with categorically funded programs – like the Teacher Corps' – losing guaranteed funding. Teacher Corps programs, which serve more than 3,000 teacher candidates, will lose \$21.3 million in guaranteed funding and impact almost half of all school districts in California. In 2011, more than one-third of California school districts hired Teacher Corps teachers, who are teaching in 54 of 58 counties across the state.

"We know that the greatest driver of student achievement is a highly qualified, committed teacher," said James Hay, Director of Human Resources at Delano Joint Union High School District. "California Teacher Corps programs provide a pipeline of effective teachers for our classrooms who deliver solutions for student, school, and district goals. We hire credentialed interns from Teacher Corps programs because we know that the right teacher makes all the

difference. California's alternative certification programs are important partners in ensuring we have the right teachers in our classrooms."

"If this vital guaranteed funding disappears, the impacts will be felt by interns and districts alike," said Shelby Spain, Elementary Education Department Advisor at San Jose State University, who also serves as the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's Intern Regional Director for Region 3 (which covers much of the Bay Area). "So much stands to be lost, as current law will require programs to pass the costs onto teacher interns, and school districts will also be required to bear the burden of additional costs."

Teacher Corps programs are meeting California's diverse teacher needs on multiple fronts. Forty-seven percent of Teacher Corps teachers are ethnically diverse, and its programs recruit 50 percent more males than traditional programs, reflecting the diversity of California students. One-third of math and science teachers are retiring within the next seven years, according to the California Council on Science and Technology, and Teacher Corps programs have placed approximately 2,100 math and science teachers in California schools in the last three years. California is also experiencing a critical shortage of qualified special education teachers to serve more than 680,000 special education students. Currently nearly two-thirds of Teacher Corps program teachers are earning credentials in this field to serve these students.

Karen Pham was a business major with a finance and marketing degree, yet decided to pursue her special education teaching credential. She entered into the Autism, Inclusion, Math and Science (AIMS) scholar program at California State University, Fullerton to work with students with autism. "My teacher preparation program provided a pathway for me to enter into the teaching profession, where I feel I am making the biggest difference with children," said Pham. "I've encountered so many second-career professionals like myself who are benefiting from alternative certification programs, and I can't imagine how difficult becoming a teacher will be without these programs."

About the California Teacher Corps

The California Teacher Corps is a nonprofit organization established in 2009 with the goal of placing 100,000 highly-qualified teachers in California's communities by 2020. The Teacher Corps provides a unified voice for the state's alternative certification programs, effectively and proactively addresses teacher preparation issues facing California and recruits the best and the brightest professionals to teach in the public schools that need them most. CA Teacher Corps membership trains second-career teachers, and others committed to working in hard-to-staff schools, who have deep subject-area expertise and who remain in the teaching profession. For more information, visit the California Teacher Corps at www.cateachercorps.org.

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