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California Teacher Corps Applauds Proposed Bills Aimed at Ending Teacher Shortage

Calls on the Legislature to Invest in Alternative Pathways to Teacher Credentialing

SACRAMENTO – Today, California Teacher Corps President Patricia Pernin released the following statement in response to the three bills (SB 62, SB 915, SB 933) proposed to the California Legislature regarding the California teacher shortage:

“We applaud California state Sen. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica, Sen. Carol Liu, D-Glendale, and Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, for joining our efforts to attract and train new teachers and stem this growing teacher shortage through their proposed legislation. Enrollment in California teacher training programs is [down 53 percent in the last five years](#) and the shortage is only getting worse. Our children deserve to have well-prepared teachers in their classrooms. California Teachers Corps was created in 2009 to attract and support new teachers to make sure students have access to such teachers. Our hope is that legislative support will aid our effort.

“This legislation needs to consider the role that alternative teacher certifications programs play in alleviating this teacher shortage. In the midst of this crisis, the [California Teacher Corps](#) has prepared over 60,000 teachers through the more than 100 alternative certification programs in the state. The teacher shortage is especially acute in special education, but alternative certification is increasingly filling this need with more than 3,500 special education teachers trained through alternative certification in California in recent years. Alternative credentialing courses allows professionals with deep content knowledge and expertise to teach in the classroom while simultaneously earning their teaching credential. Highly selective, alternative certification programs provide rigorous training before the teacher steps into the classroom and continue to provide training and support throughout the program.

“We encourage supporters of this work to join us on Feb. 18 and 19 at our [annual conference](#) where we bring together teacher trainers, experts and administrators to find new ways to solve this shortage. Together we can ensure that every classroom is led by the high-quality teachers that all of our children deserve.”

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. California 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.