



California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

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May 14, 2014

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi

Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance

State Capitol, Suite 4117

Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 2216 (MURATSUCHI): REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CENTERS AND PROGRAMS: FUNDING — OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Muratsuchi:

On behalf of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), representing California's county superintendents of schools, I am writing to inform you that we have reviewed the most recent amendments to AB 2216 and have adopted a position of "oppose unless amended." Extending the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement for regional occupational centers and programs (ROPCs) through 2016-17 would significantly undermine efforts to transition to a local implementation and accountability model consistent with the recently adopted Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

The LCFF has streamlined California's previously convoluted funding formula. For the LCFF to operate as intended, the state must allow local agencies flexibility to address their diverse needs and maximize the effective use of their resources.

Regional occupational centers or programs (ROPCs) are one of the categorical programs that were rolled into the LCFF general fund. During the transition to the LCFF, the Legislature imposed a two year MOE requirement to allow local agencies time to evaluate and transition operations and governance relationships that had historically been shared across school districts and county offices of education. This process is substantially underway across the state and an extension of the MOE requirement will delay or entirely undermine these transition efforts.

This issue is particularly essential to county offices, many of whom receive no additional state funding under the new model. For these counties, successful transition to the LCFF is only possible if they have discretion over funds previously earmarked for categorical programs.

Categorical MOE requirements significantly reduce essential local flexibility and delay efforts to transition to local implementation and accountability as required by the LCFF. CCSESA strongly urges that the extension of those MOE requirements be removed from AB 2216.

Sincerely,

Sandra S. Morales

Assistant Executive Director