



CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

May 31, 2018

Senator Holly Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: \$5 Million for the Pathways to Success Grant Program

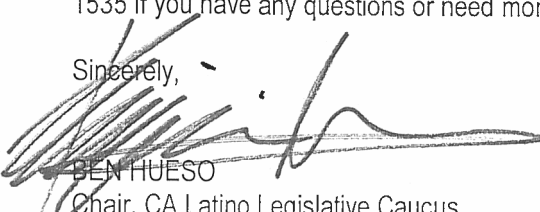
Dear Senator Mitchell and Assemblyman Ting:

On behalf of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, we respectfully request that the Budget Conference Committee provide \$5 million in funding for the Pathways to Success Grant Program (Program), which is established through Assemblyman Tony Thurmond's AB 2514.

These resources will provide much-needed funding for local education agencies (LEAs) to effectively address the unique and pressing needs of English Learners (ELs) in our state. Specifically, this funding will provide additional support to LEAs for the expansion or establishment of new dual language immersion or dual language learner/early childhood education programs. Additional resources for the purpose of implementing dual language immersion programs and capacity building are necessary for the implementation of Proposition 58. It is critical that the state invest strategically to ensure that educators have a comprehensive set of supports in place.

California has about 1.3 million students that are classified as ELs, representing over 60 different languages, and 60% of children ages 0-5 coming into public education live in homes where English is not the only language spoken. With the passage of Proposition 58 many of the legal barriers to meeting the needs of ELs have been removed and now there must be a concerted effort to strengthen the state's capacity to support LEAs, schools, and educators in their efforts to provide a world-class education for ELs. For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Budget Committees provide the funding necessary to expand these programs. Please do not hesitate to call us at (916) 651-1535 if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,


BEN HUESO
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
Senator, 40th District


LORENA GONZALEZ FLETCHER
Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
Assemblywoman, 80th District

cc: Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Budget Conference Committee Members
Assemblyman Tony Thurmond

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1020 N Street, Suite 511 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • Phone (916) 651-1535 • Fax (916) 651-4940