September 18, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor  
State of California  
The State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT:   AB 699 (O’Donnell) ~ as amended on September 8, 2017  
POSITION:  Co-Sponsor

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the 325,000 members of the California Teachers Association, we are pleased to Co-Sponsor AB 699, which will protect students in our public schools. As educators, we care deeply about the safety and well-being of the students we work with in schools and colleges throughout the state. Schools should be safe havens, but in these uncertain times prompted by actions of the current administration, many of our students are scared, anxious, and feeling threatened. This proposal prohibits discrimination and provides protections based on a student’s immigration status by:

- Monitoring whether districts are adopting anti-bullying procedures and policies, including based on immigration status.
- Prohibiting school officials from collecting information about citizenship or immigration status of pupils or their family members.
- Requires California’s Attorney General to publish model policies by April 1, 2018 limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools (to the fullest extent possible) to ensure that public schools remain safe and accessible to all California residents, regardless of immigration status. School districts would adopt a similar policy by July 1, 2018.

We ask all Californians to join us in supporting a strong, inclusive, safe and innovative public education system that ensures all students can succeed. Immigration policies should guarantee human rights and protect the integrity of the family unit without discrimination; we support immigration policies that keep families together.

Regardless of immigration status of students or their parents, every student has the right to a free public education free from harassment. California has always been a place for dreamers and we support safe-haven schools and sanctuary cities that reflect and embrace the diversity of our students and their families, as well as the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our communities.

Social justice for all begins with a quality, free public education. All dreamers are welcome here. We respectfully ask for your signature on AB 699 (O’Donnell).

Sincerely,

Seth Bramble  
Legislative Advocate


C: Assembymember O’Donnell  
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