



December 19, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore and
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
Room 400 State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Confirmation Hearing January 6, 2014

Dear Senator Steinberg:

I write on behalf of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) in strong support of the three appointees to the State Board of Education (SBE) scheduled for the January 6, 2014 Senate Rules Committee hearing. CSBA urges your "Aye" vote for confirmation of Sue Burr, Dr. Nicolasa Sandoval and Dr. Ilene Straus.

Each of these individuals has shown a deep commitment to improving public education for California's students. They bring professional and practical experience from the field, working in various capacities with education agencies. Ms. Burr's distinguished record includes a wealth of experience in state education policy, district business and fiscal positions and leadership of the county superintendents association.

In observing these appointees as they have participated and deliberated in meetings of the SBE, they have demonstrated seriousness of purpose, provided thoughtful comments and questions and listened to the cross-section of views from the education community. The three individuals up for appointment have engaged in considered discussion to make decisions on complex issues that will have repercussions for years to come.

The SBE is grappling with critical issues that will have long-term impact on education in California. The confirmation of Ms. Burr, Dr. Sandoval and Dr. Straus will be of tremendous value as the SBE addresses issues of LCFF implementation, including evaluation rubrics for the Local Control and Accountability Plans, as well as implementation of the Common Core State Standards and continued recommendations to implement changes to the Academic Performance Index pursuant to your bill, SB 1458.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information. I may be reached by phone at (916) 371-4691.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vernon M. Billy".

Vernon M. Billy
CEO / Executive Director

Copy: Members, Senate Rules Committee
Mona Pasquil, Appointments Secretary, Office of the Governor
Karen Stapf-Walters, Executive Director, State Board of Education