



California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

1121 L Street, Suite 510, Sacramento, CA 95814 • P 916.446.3095 • F 916.448.7801 • www.ccsesa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ms. L.K. Monroe

Alameda County

President-Elect

Dr. Debra Duardo

Los Angeles County

Past President

Mr. Ted Alejandro

San Bernardino County

Treasurer

Dr. Mary Barlow

Kern County

State & Federal Legislative

Committee Chair

Mr. Mike West

Colusa County

Executive Director

Ms. Karen Stapf-Walters

REGION CHAIRS

Region 1 Chair

Mr. Jeff Harris

Del Norte County

Region 2 Chair

Mr. Rich DuVarney

Tehama County

Region 3 Chair

Dr. Ed Manansala

El Dorado County

Region 4 Chair

Dr. Barbara Nemko

Napa County

Region 5 Chair

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan

Santa Clara County

Region 6 Chair

Ms. Cathy Parker

Tuolumne County

Region 7 Chair

Dr. Cecilia Massetti

Madera County

Region 8 Chair

Dr. Susan Salcido

Santa Barbara County

Region 9 Chair

Dr. Paul Gothold

San Diego County

Region 10 Chair

Mr. Barry Simpson

Inyo County

Region 11 Chair

Dr. Debra Duardo

Los Angeles County

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Business Partnerships

Mr. Dave Gordon

Sacramento County

Business and

Administration (BASC)

Mr. Dean West

Orange County

Curriculum and

Instruction (CISC)

Ms. Jennifer Hicks

Placer County

Personnel Administrative

Services (PASSCo)

Ms. Coleen Johnson

Sacramento County

Student Programs and

Services (SPSSC)

Ms. Susan Connolly

Placer County

Technology (TSC)

Mr. Ryan Choate

Alameda County

June 18, 2021

The Honorable Connie Leyva

Chair, Senate Education Committee

State Capitol, Room 2083

Sacramento CA, 95814

Subject: SUPPORT – Assembly Bill 815 (as introduced on February 16, 2021)

Dear Chair Leyva:

On behalf of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, we are pleased to support Assembly Bill 815 by Assembly Member Rivas. The bill authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to approve local educational agencies (LEAs) to apply for accreditation to offer a Professional Clear School Nurse Services Credential. Under AB 815, accreditation for a program to offer this credential must be approved by the CTC and must be consistent with the existing standards required of postsecondary institutions of higher education.

California is facing a shortage of registered nurses, including credentialed school nurses. Currently only four institutions of higher education (IHE) are authorized by the CTC to offer the Clear School Nurse Services Credential pathway, none of which are north of Sacramento. This means the entire state of California is reliant on four IHEs for its supply of clear credentialed school nurses. The evidence of this bottleneck is striking: according to 2019-2020 CTC data, only 222 new clear nurse credentials were issued statewide, and 6.2% fewer current school nurses renewed their credential than in the previous year. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for new school nurses, yet our current structure doesn't support sufficient access.

AB 815 is critical in addressing the school nurse shortage because it creates new, high-quality options for aspiring school nurses to clear their credential. Moreover, AB 815 does not compromise on quality, as the bill would hold LEA-based programs to the same CTC credentialing standards required of postsecondary institutions of higher education. LEAs are uniquely primed to offer practical, programmatic experiences while immersing candidates in school campus life. School nurse candidates prepared by LEAs would gain on-site learning involving individualized education programs, mentorship from current school nurses, and strong connections to better support students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other professionals directly concerned with students.

Numerous county offices of education offer financial incentives for school nurses to clear their credential within five years, but incentives aren't always the problem. Nurses with a preliminary credential find it difficult to complete the requirements due to the lack of available programs.

AB 815 maintains the integrity of the school nurse services credential and would provide more options for aspiring school nurses to clear their credential and better serve California's students. **For these reasons, we respectfully request your "aye" vote on AB 815.**

Sincerely,

Derick Lennox

CCSESA Senior Director, Governmental Relations and Legal Affairs

cc: Assembly Member Rivas
Members, Senate Education Committee
Roger Mackensen, Policy Consultant, Education, Republican Senate Caucus