



March 26, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 61 (Hurtado) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Portantino:

On behalf of the California Council for Adult Education (CCAE) and California Adult Education Administrators Association (CAEAA), we are pleased to support SB 61 (Hurtado) related to workforce training programs and supportive services.

SB 61 would authorize the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) to establish the Lifting Families out of Poverty Supportive Services Program to increase availability of critical support services to enable low-income adults and youth to complete employment training programs leading to living wage jobs. SB61 specifically references building on the work of local workforce development consortia such as High Road Training Partnerships and the Adult Education Program Consortia, that currently exists in 71 regions across the State.

K12 Adult Education short term career training and retraining programs are critically important for the adult students served, many of whom are the most marginalized within our communities. Further, most students served through Adult Education deal with illiteracy, poverty and high unemployment and are the most negatively impacted group when the state faces economic, social, and health challenges, most recently seen through the impact of COVID-19. Providing additional supportive services for these students to pursue a career path, including any needed basic skills is key to helping address the cycle of poverty and economic recovery for the most marginalized adults by improving upward mobility and increasing positive opportunities for children and families living in poverty. Notably, many marginalized adults experience challenges with persistence related to a lack of childcare, affordable transportation and more. Adult Schools, however, are often great options that help to mitigate these challenges with programming located within communities, often at K12 school sites. Additionally, many Adult Schools partner with many local services to facilitate students securing necessary supports for employment training persistence and successful completion.

Given the stagnant funding for Adult Education programs, these additional supportive services are not universal within Adult Education programs statewide. SB 61, to that end, would provide additional opportunities to expand these services to ensure the most

marginalized adults within our communities have the tools and supports available to pursue their basic skills and career objectives successfully.

For these reasons we are pleased to support SB 61 and urge your **AYE** vote to move the bill off the Suspense File and to the Senate Floor for consideration. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Dawn Koepke with McHugh Koepke & Associates at [dkoopke@mchughgr.com](mailto:dkoopke@mchughgr.com) or (916) 606-5309. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Porter  
President  
CCAЕ



John Werner  
President  
CAЕAA

Cc: The Honorable Melissa Hurtado, Author  
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Robert Ingenito, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Office of Policy