

**ACTION ALERT - SUPPORT LETTERS FOR SB 930 (DUCHENY)
PUPIL ASSESSMENTS**

SB 930 (Ducheny) Pupil Assessments is now on the "suspense file" of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The "suspense file" consists of bills that have been identified as costing the state (impacting the state's General Fund) more than \$50,000 dollars or having a "general fund pressure" of more than \$50,000. Amendments have been proposed to the bill to deal with most of the costs identified by staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee. However we still need to impress upon the members of the Committee the need to move SB 930 (Ducheny) "off the suspense file" so that the bill can continue to move through the legislative process.

Please email or fax the following message to the members of the Committee, especially the Chairperson (Senator Kehoe) and the Vice Chairperson ((Senator Cox) before Thursday, May 27, 2009. Try to personalize your message as much as possible.

MESSAGE ON SB 930 (DUCHENY) PUPIL ASSESSMENTS:

Dear Senator (Name)

I am writing to respectfully request your support and "yes" vote to move SB 930 (Ducheny) Pupil Assessments off the suspense file. The Committee is scheduled to make its decisions regarding the suspense file on Thursday, May 27, 2010.

California's existing testing system does not provide valid, accurate or reliable data regarding the academic performance of students who are English learners, especially English learners with little or no knowledge of English. As a result students who are English learners and their schools are inaccurately measured as to their academic progress. Schools with large numbers of students who are English learners are unfairly targeted for program improvement. SB 930 (Ducheny) as amended, addresses these problem by: 1) expanding the number of years English learners (as specified) can take a primary language test from one year to three years, 2) incorporating the score of the California Standards Test or the primary language test, whichever one is higher, into the calculation of the API and AYP and 3) by eliminating linguistic complexities and providing for additional accommodations in the California Standards tests. I believe these changes to our existing testing and accountability systems will provide for a more accurate, valid and reliable measure of the academic performance of our English learners. These changes are long overdue and are critical in these times of high stakes testing and the current focus on teacher performance.

Additionally, the amendments proposed by the author, Senator Ducheny, fully addresses the cost concerns identified by the Committee. It is for these reasons that I respectfully request that SB 930 (Ducheny) Pupil Assessments be moved off the suspense file.

Sincerely,
Name & Title if Appropriate

Senate Appropriations Committee

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