

Letterhead

Date

Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg  
State Capitol Room 205  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Steinberg –

(Your organization) is pleased to support Senate Bill 594, the Dropout Reduction and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2013, which will provide more career-oriented curriculum and training for California students by enhancing connections between schools and industry. Through these new business-school partnerships, students will have more opportunities for career training leading toward middle class jobs, while business and industry will benefit from growth in California's skilled workforce.

SB 594 provides four new tools to finance the development of career pathways through these public-private partnerships:

**Workforce Development Bonds** – Authorizes the issuance of Workforce Development Bonds by the state to businesses to fund career pathways programs. State repayment of the bonds will be linked to performance-based contracts that measure the academic progress and employment records of students participating in the programs.

**Career Pathways Investment Tax Credits** – Authorizes \$100 million in state tax credits for businesses that invest in academic and work-based learning opportunities for students in partnership with public schools.

**Career Pathways Investment Trust Funds** -- Establishes a Trust Fund in each school and community college district to finance the operations of career pathways programs. The trust funds may accept revenues from any source, including employment training funds; foundation grants; Community Reinvestment Act funds, tax revenues, apportionments, and loans.

**Career Pathways Apportionment Bonds** -- Authorizes school and community college districts to issue bonds or loans secured by future state apportionment monies to finance the operation of career pathways programs.

Too many students drop out because they don't see the connection between what they are learning in school and the careers they want to pursue. At the same time, leaders in our growth industries complain about a shortage of skilled workers.

SB 594 provides a pragmatic way to engage industry and business in education, combining academic rigor and career relevance. Encouraging their investment will pay off with more success for our students and a stronger workforce for California.

Sincerely,

Name

Organization