



April 1, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Education K-16
Re: Testimony FOR Senate Bill 2253

Good evening Chairman Creighton, Vice Chair Campbell and Members:

My name is Kelle Kieschnick, Vice President of Policy with the Texas Business Leadership Council testifying in support of Senate Bill 2253. The TBLC is a statewide, non-partisan network of CEOs and senior executives working to build a more globally competitive Texas.

We currently have a skills gap in Texas due to low postsecondary attainment that is putting a strain on our workforce. College and career readiness starts with a strong early education, however, the increase in uncertified, underprepared teachers is negatively impacting student outcomes and this creates a threat to the economic future of the state. Research shows that **students taught by an uncertified teacher experience learning loss** and **this is linked to lower lifetime earnings**, reflecting these students are less prepared for career success.¹

We commend you, Chairman Creighton, for the thoughtful steps that SB 2253 takes to strengthen our teacher workforce by **investing in a sustainable pipeline of well-prepared instructors** so that districts can reduce their reliance on uncertified teachers.

The **new PREP Allotment** providing the **first-ever state investment in high-quality educator prep pathways** will increase participation in programs with a meaningful classroom training component to ensure new teachers are fully prepared to be successful. Empowering districts to offer **differentiated compensation that reflects the level of preparation** will further incentivize aspiring teachers to complete certification before entering the profession.

Additionally, SB 2253 **mitigates the growing number of uncertified teachers** in our classrooms by limiting their role in foundation courses, **incentivizing districts to help these teachers earn certification**, and requiring parental notification. **Expanding the mentor allotment** will provide new teachers with a better support system so they will be more effective and more likely to stay in the profession.

¹ Kirksey, J. (2024). [Amid Rising Number of Uncertified Teachers, Previous Classroom Experience Proves Vital in Texas.](#); Marder, M., Torres, L.G., Martinez, C., (2024). [Beyond the Tipping Point: The Rise of the Uncertified Teachers in Texas.](#)

We know that the classroom teacher is the most influential in-school factor impacting student success so this investment in increasing the supply of well-prepared, effective educators takes a big step forward to improve student outcomes which will ultimately lead to a more competitive workforce in Texas.

Thank you to the committee for your commitment to improving student outcomes.

Respectfully,

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