

## [INSERT LETTERHEAD HERE]

Insert Date

The Honorable Josh Newman  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 6740  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 354 (Ochoa Bogh)-SUPPORT**

On behalf of **(insert organization name)**, I write in strong support of SB 354 (Ochoa Bogh). This bill would promote the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms by addressing and implementing inclusionary practices through the development of standards and performance expectations for administrators. This bill would also require the Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), to develop and disseminate joint guidance to clarify the ways in which inclusive classrooms and placements may be staffed.

**[Add any specific information about your LEA/SELPA; i.e. barriers to supporting inclusive practices, LRE data, litigation for lack of inclusive options, need for administrative support.]**

All California students deserve an education worthy of their potential. For too long, this education has been out of reach for many of our students with disabilities. In 2018-19, California had one of the lowest inclusion rates for students with disabilities in the country: 56.9% of students with disabilities spend 80% or more of their day in general education compared to a national average of 66.2%. We must ensure an appropriate educational setting for students with disabilities that accounts for their educational needs while they learn alongside peers without disabilities. This also allows students with disabilities to develop relationships with their school and community. It is critical that outcomes for students with disabilities are improved, which may be impacted by providing the support necessary to implement meaningful, evidence-based inclusive practices in California schools.

SB 354 is necessary to support improved outcomes for students with disabilities. I strongly urge your “aye” vote on SB 354 (Ochoa-Bogh) in the Senate Education Committee.

Sincerely,

**[include signature]**

cc: Members, Senate Education Committee  
Ian Johnson, Senate Education Committee