



CALIFORNIA EDUCATORS MAKE STRIDES TO STRENGTHEN THE TEACHING PROFESSION

OUR IMPACT

In March 2017, Teach Plus teachers, together with California Asm. Shirley Weber introduced AB1220, the Teacher and Student Success Act, that would for the first time make teacher tenure in the state a true, earned professional benchmark. The teachers crafted key provisions of AB1220 and worked closely with Asm. Weber to develop the bill's language.

As AB1220 moved through the legislature, the teachers succeeded in convincing a bipartisan majority on two committees, and nearly the entire California Assembly, that it's time for change:

- + AB1220 passed the California State Assembly Education Committee 4-1.
- + The California State Assembly voted for the bill 60-5.

These two milestones mark the **first time in over three decades** that an effort to strengthen California's tenure law has moved this far within the state legislature.

Changing to a three-year term gives teachers a longer time to develop their craft, and gives principals a longer time to coach their teachers and also evaluate them in a real meaningful way.

— Sacramento Teacher **Stephanie Luty Piazza** on NBC Sacramento.



HOW WE GOT THERE

On March 28, 2017, Teach Plus teachers announced the launch of AB1220 at a press conference in Sacramento. Standing next to Asm. Weber, the teachers emphasized that in lengthening the minimum period to achieve tenure from two years to three and in giving priority professional development support to teachers striving to achieve tenure, AB1220 strengthens teacher retention at a time of growing teacher shortages in the state. The media, including the *Associated Press*, the *U.S. News & World Report*, and many local publications, covered the press conference extensively.

In the following months, Teach Plus teachers ramped up their advocacy in support of the bill. Fellows **Stephanie Luty Piazza**, **Lindsey Bird**, and others published powerful op-eds in the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Modesto Bee*, and the *Huffington Post*. Teachers spoke with newspapers' editorial boards, resulting in the endorsement from the influential *Los Angeles Times*. And they continued to make their presence known in their local districts and in Sacramento, meeting with legislators and working to secure support for this teacher-authored legislation.

At the end of the spring 2017 legislative session, the teachers and Asm. Weber decided to make AB1220 a two-year bill in order to ensure a greater opportunity for its passage through the Senate. The teachers are steadfast in their commitment to fix California's broken tenure law—and to create a commonsense policy solution that serves the state's students and the teaching profession.

California has long placed teacher rights over student needs. A fair compromise is finally on the horizon.

— Los Angeles Times Editorial Board in its endorsement of AB1220.

Los Angeles teacher **Josh Brown** was on hand to testify in support of AB1220 before the state Education Committee.

From the testimony:

The Teacher and Student Success Act embodies sensible policy that underscores the voices of teachers from across the state of California.



3

published op-eds from teachers in support of AB1220.

37

meetings with legislators.

70

stories in the media.

132M

people reached through press coverage nationwide.

“Step one in guaranteeing that California students have the best teachers possible is addressing our state’s tenure practices.”

— Modesto Teacher **Lindsey Bird** in an op-ed in the Modesto Bee.

