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September 5, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 1353 (Wicks)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 1353, which shortens the maximum probationary period for classified school employees who work in non-merit school districts from one year to six months.

The author claims that this bill simply creates parity between merit and non-merit school districts. Unfortunately, this bill only creates the illusion of parity since the bill does not require that non-merit school districts adopt the same mandates that merit systems operate under. These mandates include the establishment of a Personnel Commission, testing procedures, and the creation of eligibility lists. School districts that have adopted a merit system have committed themselves to the extra cost and time that it takes to operate this type of system, which is not required in a non-merit system. If the author was truly interested in parity they would have amended the bill to either eliminate non-merit districts, or require that non-merit districts have to adopt the same mandates that merit districts operate under.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,



Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader