



September 30, 2010

Dear Programs and Colleagues,

Over the past few days, the California Teacher Corps has closely followed the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversal of 'highly qualified' for teachers from alternative certification programs. We are extremely disappointed with the position of the Appeals Court and believe that this ruling has the potential to cut off a critical pathway to teaching for many professionals, as well as an important pipeline of effective teachers for school districts.

We have spoken publicly regarding the implications of this ruling and will continue to be in touch with the press who are covering the issue. We wanted to share with you important facts about alternative certification in California:

- Over the last six years, alternative certification programs have placed more than *55,000 highly-skilled teachers* in California public schools.
- These teachers are most often second-career professionals, and other content experts, who *choose* to serve high-need public schools.
- There is a higher percentage of teachers from alternative certification programs in high-need, high-poverty public schools due to our *proactive* efforts to recruit effective teachers with the following characteristics - content expertise, career and life experience, and an understanding of the community in which they teach. These characteristics allow teachers to better serve their students.
- This pathway has been used to recruit math and science professionals into the teaching profession. In past years, 50 percent of California's new math teachers came from alternative certification programs.
- Over a quarter of California's alternative certification programs serve high-need, high-poverty rural communities that have no other teacher pipeline.

We must look at this as an opportunity for all of us to continue raising positive visibility around the efforts of our programs to address California's education needs, as well as the effectiveness of our teachers in the classroom.

Please feel free to reach out to the Teacher Corps with any questions or comments.

Thank you,
The California Teacher Corps Board of Directors
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