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## **Assemblymember O'Donnell Applauds Proposal to Address Special Education Teacher Shortage**

*Governor Brown's budget proposal includes funding to increase number of qualified special education teachers*

(SACRAMENTO) – The Governor's proposed budget includes funding for increasing the number of special education teachers, consistent with Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell's (D – Long Beach) [Assembly Bill 169](#), which addresses the teacher shortage in critical key subjects.

Assemblymember O'Donnell issued the following statement Monday:

"I applaud the Governor for proposing funds for recruiting and retaining special education teachers consistent with my teacher scholarship bill, AB 169. Special education has been hit especially hard by the existing teacher shortage. The proposed local solutions grant could bring 2,500 new special education teachers into the field. It is critical that we prioritize recruiting highly-trained special education teachers for our most vulnerable students. In addition to special education, AB 169 includes scholarships for other high-need teaching areas, such as bilingual education and STEM. I look forward to deliberating the Governor's proposal and having conversations about expanding the scope of the proposed grant money to address all areas suffering from teacher shortages."

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*Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell represents the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes Long Beach, Signal Hill, San Pedro and Catalina Island.*