**AB 2609 (O’DONNELL) TEACHERS: CA SCIENTIST-TO-TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM**

**POSITION:** The Chamber’s Education & Workforce Roundtable voted to SUPPORT this bill on May 1, 2018. The Chamber’s Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT this bill on May 8, 2018.

**STATUS:** The bill was passed through the Assembly’s Education Committee with no opposition and has been referred to the Appropriations Committee.

**SUMMARY**
AB 2609 requires the California Department of Education to establish the Scientist-to-Teacher program for the purposes of recruiting, training, supporting, and retaining qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) scientists as STEM teachers in kindergarten through grade 12.

**INDUSTRIES IMPACTED**
K – 12 Education

**SUPPORTERS**
- Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation
- Alder Graduate School of Education
- Alliance Alice M. Baxter College-Ready High School
- Alliance College-Ready Public Schools
- Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School
- Bayer
- California Science Teachers Association
- California STEM Network
- Center for Powerful Public Schools
- EnCorps STEM Teachers
- Institute for STEM Education—CSU, East Bay
- Los Angeles Education Corps
- Metropolitan Education District
- Northrop Grumman
- Pittsburg High School
- Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Silicon Valley Career Technical Education

**OPPONENTS**
None on file

**ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR**
- Attracts more STEM scientists into K-12 teaching
- Fosters high rates of retention and teacher leadership
- Grantee must supply CDE with a report that assesses the impacts of this program

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION**
- Fiscal effect is unknown

**MORE INFORMATION**
Seven of the ten fastest growing professions in California are in STEM fields so ensuring our future in economic success demands we provide students with access to fully prepared STEM teachers.