



February 7, 2008

*... to promote and support
all aspects of effective
science teaching ...*

The Honorable Jack Scott
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1111-SUPPORT

Dear Senator Scott:

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The California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) strongly supports your bill, SB 1111, requiring that the State Board of Education revise the life science and biology testing requirements. This bill will provide much-needed flexibility for districts in meeting federal testing requirements.

California's grade 9-12 science standards—in biology, physics, chemistry, and earth science—were established as a grade span and do not specify at what grade any particular subject is to be taught. This flexibility was incorporated into the standards precisely so that districts could develop programs that would be most effective for their students. For example, many districts have structured science programs that require physics to be taught in 10th grade, and biology in 11th or 12th grade.

However, under the testing mandates adopted by the state board to comply with NCLB, all students must be tested in biology and life science in 10th grade. That requirement has necessitated many districts altering their science programs to ensure all students have taken life science and biology by 10th grade in order to comply with NCLB's 95 percent test participation rate. SB 1111 correctly points out that, with the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System in place, there is no longer a need to require all students to take the NCLB science test in one grade; grades can be accumulated over a period of several years to arrive at the 95 percent requirement.

CSTA stands ready to assist you in any way to pass this legislation and to see that it is enacted into law. Please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

Christine Bertrand
Executive Director