

**Joshua Brown, California Teaching Policy Fellow: Testimony Before the California State Senate
Education Committee in Support of AB 1220
July 12, 2017**

My name is Joshua Brown and I am a 5th year special education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. In addition to my classroom duties, I serve as the department chair of special education, secretary of school site council, and master teacher for pre-service teaching candidates. I am a Teach Plus Policy Fellow and a proud member of the CTA.

The Teacher and Student Success Act embodies sensible policy that underscores the voices of teachers from across the state of California.

Two sponsoring organizations, Teach Plus and Educators for Excellence, represent a membership of approximately 10,000 teachers from across the state, who also played a critical role in writing this piece of legislation.

In conjunction with Senator Weber's office, teachers like me drafted, revised, and edited this bill over the course of 18 months. We have received endorsements of support from LAUSD School Board Member George McKenna, the PTA of California, the Association of California School Administrators, and the United Way.

Not only is support for this bill wide-ranging, but support among classroom teachers is strong as well.

An independent statewide survey of 506 teachers in traditional California schools found that 85 percent of teachers think that tenure decisions should be made after at least three years of classroom instruction.

Moreover, the opinions of California teachers on tenure are supported nation-wide also. In 42 states, permanent status is earned between three and five years. In California, permanent status is earned after just 2 years.

I ask you to listen to the voices of teachers by voting yes on AB1220, a bill written and supported by teachers.