

**SB 5528 and SB 5813**  
**Testimony 2/27/07**  
**Julie Wright**

Good afternoon madam chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of SB 5528 and SB 5813. My name is Julie Wright. I'm speaking in behalf of the WSPTA. Improving math and science is our 2<sup>nd</sup> highest priority and I've provided you with a green sheet that states our message on this issue. I'd like to speak to both bills if I may.

We know the dismal statistics that show our math programs are failing our students.

- Almost 50 % of 10<sup>th</sup> graders couldn't pass the math WASL and remediation is not working effectively
- For minorities, English Language Learners and low-income students the passage rate was much worse, widening the achievement gap.
- 30 – 50% of college freshmen need remedial math

This is very costly for the state and is closing the doors of future career opportunities for our student. Our state economy is jeopardized when employers can't find enough employees with the math and science skills needed in our technology-dependent society. Our math and science programs need an overhaul and these bills provide that. Here are a few comments:

**Section 1, Mathematics and Science Instructional Coach Project**

Districts should be allowed local control with this.

Money could be better spent on world-class curricula that have clear examples and explanations, so parents can help and students won't need so much tutoring.

Better curricula can help make-up for lack of teacher skill. It is a faster fix and is less expensive.

There are efficient and effective curricula; CA already has a menu in their balanced and internationally competitive mathematics framework.

**Section 2, Mathematics and Science Review**

Math is a career gatekeeper and now, more than ever, students need a world-class math education to succeed in the global job-market. To ensure that both our math and science programs adequately prepare our students for college and the global job market, it is crucial to provide independent oversight committees that include mathematicians and scientists from universities and private industry, successful K-12 classroom teachers, and parents. These committees should

- 1) Oversee the definition and adoption of internationally competitive standards,
- 2) Ensure our assessments align to the new world class standards, and
- 3) Recommend a menu of curricula aligning to the new standards for school districts to choose from, and
- 4) Ensure professional development is in line with the new standards.

Ca has already accomplished this work for math, We can look to see what they did.

SB 5528 provides this independent review for math, we also need it for science.

**In favor of the Future Teachers Conditional Scholarships**

This will increase the number of qualified math and science teachers and will improve math and science instruction.

Providing math and science programs that align with top performing nations will open the doors of opportunity for our student to be international innovators in the sciences, medicines and technology. It will strengthen our economy and provide a bright future for our children. Thank you for you efforts to make this a reality for every child.