

The Honorable Darshana Patel
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5140
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 23, 2026

RE: AB 2148 (Muratsuchi)

Position: Sponsor

Dear Chair Patel and Members:

CFT — A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO, is proud to co-sponsor AB 2148 (Muratsuchi), which will prohibit artificial intelligence (AI) from replacing education workers.

CFT represents roughly 120,000 education workers across California, both certificated and classified, in virtually every type of education setting, from small rural elementary schools to large urban universities and everything in between. Every single one of our members is a critically important piece of our education system, dedicated to their work and focused every day on always improving and strengthening their skills to best serve students and create the most effective and supportive learning environment possible.

They also often go beyond the call of duty to give pupils individualized instruction and help that only a highly trained professional can offer. This can involve giving a little extra space to a student going through what a school staff member knows is a very tough situation at home. It could be a paraeducator or office worker enthusiastically cheering on a student who has just achieved a major educational milestone.

Or, it could just be the highly complicated but always expected ability of a teacher to know exactly what will best motivate each of 25 students and tailoring lessons, feedback, and communication to ensure that every one of those students is positioned for the greatest educational success they can achieve. Nothing but years of experience and dedication enable an educator to reach this point, and the end result is nothing short of a life-changing positive experience for everyone involved.

However, in recent years, the once far-fetched concept of certificated and classified workers being fully replaced by education technology has become not just possible but a disturbing reality faced by every education worker. Not only does this technology exist, it has been deployed and is in use and has replaced every single teacher at two private schools, called Alpha Schools, in California. Reported evidence of what students at these two schools experience is deeply concerning and demands immediate legislative action to ensure that this model never reaches public schools.

AB 2148 (Muratsuchi) will clarify that all certificated and classified staff be natural persons. In doing so, this bill will guarantee that whatever technological progress may be made, the undeniable advantages of in-person education are never lost in California.

While AI is a fascinating and often useful technology, it does now and always will fall far short of what a trained and experienced teacher can do. By definition, it will never be able to adequately replace the trust created by the human connection between teacher and pupil, and that trust is the foundation of lasting educational success. Removing that from the process causes a variety of harms to both student and educator that simply cannot be risked.

We must strengthen our education system, not tear it apart to serve a dangerous tech industry-driven agenda far more concerned with short-term shareholder profit than long-term student health.

We urge you to support AB 2148 (Muratsuchi) when it comes before you in the Assembly Education Committee. Please feel free to contact CFT Legislative Representative Mitch Steiger at msteiger@cft.org or (916) 524-5182 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mitch Steiger
Legislative Representative
MS: rc-opeiu#29 afl-cio

