

The Honorable Sasha Renee Perez
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 10, 2026

RE: SB 1083 (Perez)

Position: Sponsor

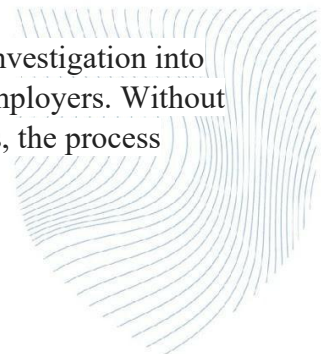
Dear Chair Perez and Members:

The CFT — A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO, is a sponsor of Senate Bill 1083 (Perez), which expands the Safe Learning Environments Act (SB 848, Chapter 460, Statutes of 2025) by establishing an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) review process for classified employees who are added to the statewide data system for investigations involving egregious misconduct, and by establishing appropriate vetting standards for independent contractors who work with students.

The Safe Learning Environments Act created a statewide data system to track egregious misconduct investigations involving school employees to improve transparency and prevent individuals with serious allegations from moving between school sites without proper review. As implementation moves forward, stakeholders have identified areas where additional refinements would help ensure the system operates with consistency, fairness, and covers all individuals working with students. While the Safe Learning Environments Act marked an important step toward creating safer school environments, two key issues have emerged through its implementation.

First, classified employees do not have a clearly defined, impartial review process comparable to certificated employees (teachers). Existing law requires that teachers receive due process before being placed in a misconduct-related data system, which includes a hearing and the ability to appeal the decision to an ALJ through the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). Without equivalent due process protections, investigations against classified employees involving egregious misconduct can result in professional and personal consequences.

Second, in some cases, employees may resign or leave their position before an investigation into alleged misconduct is completed, which limits information available to future employers. Without clear requirements to complete investigations and document these circumstances, the process leaves important safety concerns unaddressed.



Finally, while the Safe Learning Environments Act established an important accountability structure, gaps remain for contracted and non-permanent employees who work directly with students. These individuals may have regular, unsupervised access to children, yet are not always subject to the same level of accountability.

Addressing these issues is essential to prevent inconsistent standards and ensure that all individuals working with students are treated consistently under the law. For these reasons, the CFT is sponsoring SB 1083 and urges your AYE vote. If you have any questions, please contact me at tbrown@cft.org.

Sincerely,



Tristan Brown
Legislative Director

TB: rc-opeiu29 afl-cio

