

September 15, 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Support SB 547 (Steinberg) – Establish the Education Quality Index (EQI)**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of AMERICA'S EDGE, a nonprofit organization including more than 50 business leaders in California committed to strengthening American businesses and our state's economy through proven investments in children and youth, we write in **support of SB 547 (Steinberg)** to help more high school students develop the skills and knowledge they'll need to graduate from high school prepared for success in college and career.

Senate Bill 547 would require the State Board of Education, by 2014, to revise the Academic Performance Index (API)—the state's public school accountability system—into the Education Quality Index (EQI), to include indicators of student preparedness for success in college and the workplace.

California's public systems of education have a significant opportunity to contribute to the state's job growth and economic recovery by aligning high school curricula more closely to the needs of growing and emerging areas of our economy. But we must increase the number of students graduating from high school ready to succeed in college and a workplace that is far more complicated and demanding than it was even a decade ago.

As an organization of business leaders, AMERICA'S EDGE is working to strengthen businesses and the economy through proven investments in children and youth. If enacted, SB 547 would support this goal.

Thank you for your work to strengthen the connection between our education systems and our economy.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ortega
California State Director
AMERICA'S EDGE