



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER  
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
**CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD**

April 30, 2013

The Honorable Steve Knight  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT SB 413 (Knight)**

Dear Senator Knight,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 413. This measure provides a \$1,000 personal income tax credit to Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers of one or more science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) courses. Those who teach in a low-performing school will be eligible for a \$1,500 tax credit.

The California education system is not keeping up with demand for STEM jobs. In 2009, only 10% of California college degrees and certificates were issued in STEM fields. Women and minorities were particularly underrepresented among graduates. This is unfortunate because even when unemployment rates soar, candidates with STEM degrees have their choice of positions.

Interest in the sciences begins at a young age. Increasing the availability and hours of instruction in STEM fields will have a significant effect on the number of qualified workers for high-demand fields in the future. By incentivizing qualified individuals to teach STEM fields, we are investing in our future and protecting California jobs for California workers.

For the reasons stated, as well as my commitment to lower tax burdens, I am in support of SB 413.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Runner".

GEORGE RUNNER  
Second District