A Resolution in Support of Assistance for Student Teachers

WHEREAS student teachers must often abandon or reduce part-time work to accommodate their student teaching schedules, creating financial hardships that render many unable to complete their programs,

WHEREAS these financial hardships disproportionately impact CSUSB students, of whom 80% are first-generation and 58% qualify for Pell Grants, leading two-thirds of them to switch from student teaching to student interning, lengthening their time-to-degree by 45% or nearly 1.5 years,

WHEREAS California is facing a teacher shortage, with more than one in six classes taught by teachers without credentials statewide and even more in high-poverty and rural communities -- a number expected to grow unless action is taken,

WHEREAS the Nevada Department of Education funds grants and stipends to support student teachers -- up to $2000 for tuition assistance at any time during their final three semesters of their program, and up to $8400 in stipends during their student teaching semester -- comprising a $20.7 million investment to incentivize pathways to teaching, paid for from federal coronavirus relief funding,

And WHEREAS this program may serve as a model for California,

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the San Bernardino chapter of the California Faculty Association requests that the Statewide CFA Teacher Education Caucus work together with the Statewide CFA Political Action & Legislative Committee to sponsor or co-sponsor a budget request to address this critical need for financial support for our student teachers.