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**Contact: Kirk M. Clark
(916) 498-8980**

**CBEE Statement on the Failure of the Assembly Education Committee
to Pass Race to the Top Legislation SBX5-1 (Romero)**

Sacramento—"California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) urges members of the Assembly Education Committee to reconsider and pass SBX5-1 and put California students in a position to Race to the Top," said Kirk Clark, executive director of CBEE. Yesterday's vote, or non-vote, was a win for the forces of the status quo, and a regrettable loss for students all around the state."

"The legislative efforts around Race to the Top have been described recently by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, as a 'Race over the Cliff.' If trying to ensure more California students have access to a quality education is a race off the cliff, then I am ready to jump," said Clark.

"President Obama and U.S. Education Secretary Duncan have set an aggressive agenda to improve the quality of education in this country and have put significant resources behind it."

"The response from the forces for the status quo in California is to do nothing – even if it means California will not be competitive for up \$1 billion of federal funding. That is not only shameful, it is harmful to another generation of students who are trapped in underperforming classrooms not receiving the education they deserve."

"CBEE urges those members who did not vote during yesterdays hearing (Assembly members Buchanan, Chesbro, Eng, Hall, Miller and John A. Perez) to step up to the plate and do what is right for the students of California."

Please contact members of the [Assembly Education Committee](#) and urge their reconsideration and passage of SBX5-1 (Romero) today.

*California Business for Education Excellence is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to **raise student academic achievement and close the achievement gap** in California's public schools. For more information please visit our website at www.cbee.org*