



To: Members of the Legislature

From: The Community College League of California

Re: Co-author Request for Senate Bill 895 (Roth) – Community College Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program

On behalf of the Community College League of California, **we invite you to co-author SB 895 by Senator Roth**, which would provide an accessible and affordable option for obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree at designated community colleges and address the nursing demands of our State.

For decades, California has faced a nursing shortage. This challenge has been exacerbated in recent years and is expected to worsen due to an increase in Registered Nurse (RN) retirements. A contributing factor to this crisis is California’s insufficient nursing school capacity. During the 2021-2022 academic year, 74.2% of qualified applications for California nursing programs were rejected, resulting in 47,687 potential nursing students being turned away. More specifically, only 9,179 applicants who applied to a BSN program were accepted, and 26,295 qualified applicants were rejected.¹ Tens of thousands of future nurses were turned away due to a lack of classroom capacity.

To address the nursing shortage, SB 895 (Roth) establishes a pilot program for 15 community college districts in underserved nursing areas to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing. Programs must be nationally accredited and class sizes cannot exceed 25% of the current Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) class or 35 students, whichever is greater.

Providing an accessible and affordable option for obtaining a BSN degree in community college will create a more diverse healthcare workforce that has less student loan debt, while also addressing the increasing demand for BSN graduates in the workplace.

If you are interested in co-authoring, please email this form to mikaila.kruse@sen.ca.gov and nune@cpleague.org. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Member’s Name (please print)

Member’s Signature

¹ Spetz J., Chu L., Blash L., California Board of Registered Nursing 2021-2022 Annual School Report, Aug 2023