DATE

The Honorable Chris Holden

Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations

1021 O Street, Suite 8220

Sacramento, CA 95814

***Re: Assembly Bill 1752 (Santiago) Community Colleges: Part-Time Faculty Pay***

Position: **Oppose**

Dear Assemblymember Holden,

On behalf of DISTRICT NAME **I write in respectful opposition to AB 1752 (Santiago),** which would limit student success and make it difficult to close achievement gaps by mandating that part-time faculty members receive equal compensation to their peers. While increasing the pay and working conditions of our part-time workforce is a laudable goal, to do so without a significant increase in funding will crowd out other critical state and local priorities.

First, to be clear, the DISTRICT NAME agrees with both the author and the sponsor of this measure that part-time faculty need better working conditions. They make up the majority of our faculty pool and have direct contact with our students. However, Community Colleges receive the lowest per-pupil funding rate in the state and are forced to make hard decisions on how to best compensate their part-time faculty workforce while funding other important programs.

For example, the significant cost in this proposal would make it difficult to provide salary increases to current faculty members in proportion to increases in the cost of living, provide healthcare benefits to both part-time and full-time faculty members, and other staffing priorities. Our colleges are currently struggling to meet staffing obligations in an era of declining enrollment and a global pandemic, and AB 1742 (Santiago) would place additional limitations onto our colleges.

Additionally, current research and legislative initiatives are making it increasingly clear that wrap around services for students are critical to student access and success. Our system’s strategic plan *- the Vision for Success* - sets ambitious goals relating to increasing student success and closing achievement gaps. It lays out specific steps for colleges to take to achieve these goals, such as contextualized academic counseling, increased tutoring for students, and professional development for faculty to better understand how to serve our students. If implemented, AB 1752 (Santiago) would result in less support for these critical action items.

For these reasons, the DISTRICT NAME urges **a no vote on AB 1752 (Santiago).** If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at either PHONE NUMBER or EMAIL.

Thank you,

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

TITLE

DISTRICT NAME

CC: Members, Assembly Committee on Higher Education

 Assemblymember Miguel Santiago