DATE

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor, State of California

State Capitol, First Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 927 (Medina) Community Colleges: Statewide Baccalaureate Degree Programs**

Position**: SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of DISTRICT NAME, **I write to inform you of our support and urge your signature of Assembly Bill 927 (Medina), which** expands access to community college baccalaureate degree programs across the state of California.

Currently, only fifteen colleges throughout the state are permitted to offer baccalaureate degrees. These degrees are not offered at either the University of California (UC) or the California State University (CSU) but provide a pathway to a good-paying job. These baccalaureate degrees – ranging from health information technology, respiratory therapy to airframe manufacturing are tailored to the economies of the region they serve.

AB 927 (Medina) would expand on the success of these initial programs by permitting all community colleges to offer these types of degrees and removes the current sunset date. Our colleges would build off existing two-year programs or craft new four-year pathways to a baccalaureate degree that would directly benefit their community. Each of these programs will be significantly less costly than tuition at our UC, CSU, or other four-year partners.

At the same time, AB 927 will ensure that we are not duplicating the degrees offered by the UC or CSU, as this would still be prohibited. Additionally, the bill strengthens the consultation process between the four-year systems and community colleges. It strikes a good balance in both increasing access to baccalaureate degrees and reducing the chance of the UC, CSU, or community colleges duplicating each other’s efforts.

For the above reasons, we support AB 927 (Medina) and urge its passage. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at E-MAIL or PHONE NUMBER.

Thank You,

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

POSITION

DISTRICT NAME

CC: Assemblymember Jose Medina

 Joey Freeman, Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Ryan McElhinney, Community College League of California