DATE

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor, State of California

State Capitol, First Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re:  AB 928 (Berman): Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation**

Position: **Request Veto**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the DISTRICT NAME, **we must respectfully request you to veto Assembly Bill 928 by Assemblymember Marc Berman** aswe do not think its proposed modifications to the transfer process will have a positive impact on our students.

AB 928 creates a committee designated with providing recommendations towards changing the transfer process, a single general education transfer pathway for students intending to transfer to either the University of California (UC) or the California State University (CSU), and automatically place students in an associate degree for transfer (ADT) program regardless of their academic goals or intentions.

While we appreciate that the composition of the committee created by AB 928 recognizes the critical importance of those being responsible for creating transfer pathways, we continue to have significant concerns about the other proposals found in the bill. Per extensive conversations with faculty, staff, trustees, CEOs, and other stakeholders, we have concluded that the following mandates would be detrimental to increasing student success or closing achievement gaps.

We agree that a simplified transfer process between the UC and CSU is better for students who would like to transfer to our four-year partners, but we do not believe that AB 928 achieves this goal.  We are concerned that the bill will remove viable course options for CSU-bound students and ultimately eliminate community college faculty purview regarding academic and curricular matters. Finally – regarding the University of California’s near constitutional independence from mandates imposed by the state legislature – we have significant questions on how this would be implemented.

We also oppose the automatic placement of students in an ADT pathway and recommended this be eliminated in the bill. Automatic placement into a transfer program without consent from a student goes against the Guided Pathway framework of flexible transfer pipelines with a definitive placement. Finally, while ADTs guarantee a spot at a CSU, they do not guarantee admission at their local CSU. Providing students with better information about their pathway options would afford them self-agency, which leads to closing equity gaps. We believe that the committee should be focused on discussing how to better leverage these pathways for our students.

We agree with the author and the sponsors of this measure about the need for reforming the transfer process. Far too many students – particularly those of color or first of their generation – get lost in the transfer process. That is why we are in support of a committee made up of various stakeholders charged with taking a hard look at how we are doing with the transfer process and making recommendations to the state legislature on ways we can improve our operations.

Unfortunately, the bill contains other provisions without adequate feedback from higher education practitioners. We, therefore, must reluctantly urge your veto on this measure allowing higher education practitioners to continue to work with the sponsor and author of the measure on ways the transfer process can be reformed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at PHONE NUMBER or EMAIL.

Sincerely,

FIRST NAME LAST NAME
TITLE
DISTRICT NAME

CC: Assemblymember Marc Berman

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

Community College League of California