



February 15, 2021

Hon. Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 5094

Hon. Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Recommendations on the Community College Budget Early Action Proposal
6870-101-0001**

Dear Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf of the listed above organizations, we are writing in regard to the Administration’s Early Action Proposal, which features two items:

- *\$100 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support emergency student financial assistance grants for full-time, low-income community college students and other students who were previously working full-time, or the equivalent of full-time, who can demonstrate an emergency financial need.*
- *\$20 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support efforts to bolster CCC student retention rates and enrollment.*

We are supportive of the immediate effort to help students and stabilize enrollment, yet we are concerned that the overly prescriptive and potentially confusing parameters around the student support may undermine these goals. We believe strongly that our ability to be successful with these resources is tied directly to the clarity and ease with which we can locally determine eligibility and distribute the funds to students in as timely a manner as is practical.

With this in mind, we urge you to amend the Trailer Bill Language (TBL) on the \$100 million in student support to reflect the following:

- Simplified criteria at the state level to allow for maximum latitude in local decision-making to determine eligibility, allowing for a more inclusive group of eligible student recipients;

- Align overall goals for these funds with those of the federal government while allowing districts the ability to distribute them for both similar and complementary purposes;
- Assure that the compliance process is not overly punitive in the event of good faith errors on the part of districts in urgently distributing these funds.

Regarding the \$20 million proposal for student retention and enrollment, we respectfully request the TBL to be amended to allow for maximum flexibility at the district level in determining how best to achieve our shared goals.

We recognize that time is of the essence, and we hope this letter helps inform policymakers on how these precious funds can be most effective for our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Larry Galizio, Ph.D.
 President & CEO
 Community College League of California
 (916) 245-5032
galizio@cclleague.org



Andrew Martinez
 Director of Government Relations
 Community College League of California
 (916) 662-4543
amartinez@cclleague.org

Hon. John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Committee #1
 Hon. Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee # 2
 Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1
 Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
 Lande Ajose, Office of the Governor
 Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
 Michelle Nguyen, Department of Finance
 Dan Hanower, Department of Finance
 Megan Baier, Education Policy Director, Office of the Senate President pro Tem
 Mónica Henestroza, Principal Consultant, Office of the Assembly Speaker
 Anita Lee, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
 Mark Martin, Senior Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
 Carolyn Nealon, Assembly Republican Consultant
 Jean Marie McKinney, Senate Republican Consultant
 Paul Steenhausen, Legislative Analyst's Office
 Lizette Navarette, Vice Chancellor, California Community Colleges
 California Community College Trustees
 Chief Executive Officers of California Community Colleges