



**COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA**

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[www.ccleague.org](http://www.ccleague.org)

27 May 2020

Hon. Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
State Capitol Room 5019

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

**Re: Community College Budget for Both 2019-20 and 2020-21  
May Revise 6870-101-0001**

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf of the Community College League of California (the League), we thank you for your leadership in these challenging times and for your ongoing support of the California Community Colleges. We offer this as a supplement to our attached letter of May 20.

The League supports the following positions on budget items due to the pandemic and budgetary shortfall:

- **Support for a Workload Reduction/Oppose Current Trailer Bill Language on Access.** While the League fully supports open access for our students, it is completely unrealistic to expect our districts to maintain access at the same rate while enduring such a deep reduction to apportionments. Districts need the local flexibility to manage their finances in a way that preserves high cost, high demand career technical education courses needed to respond to the pandemic and which continue to be in demand in this recessionary economy. The current Trailer Bill Language usurps that local authority and is liable to result in deep reductions to those critical Career Technical Education courses that lead to in-demand job opportunities.
- **Proposed Cut to Strong Workforce is Disproportionately High/Reductions to Strong Workforce Should Come from Regions, Not Districts.** It makes no sense for the Strong Workforce Program to be targeted for a 58% reduction, much higher than the 15% level for other community college categoricals, particularly when these funds enable colleges to offer the high cost Career Technical Education programs so needed by this economy. At whatever level of reduction, the League urges a more targeted strategy. Priority must be with the districts' ability to offer high-cost courses, which allow students to enter or re-enter the workforce with the necessary education and training for an in-demand job. As such, we urge a First Dollar Reduction approach from the regional portion of the Strong Workforce Program before looking to the districts for further cuts.



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Page Two

- **Support Deferral Hardship Waivers for Community College Districts.** The League supports the Trailer Bill Language extending protections in current law for financially vulnerable districts to the proposed deferrals in the May Revise. This is extremely important to ensure that all districts can survive the nearly \$1 billion in proposed deferrals for the current and budget years.
- **Support Trailer Bill Language on Fifty Percent Law.** The League supports the Trailer Bill Language on the Fifty Percent Law as proposed by the Administration which exempts COVID 19-related expenses from the statutory calculation. The proposed trailer bill provides the appropriate flexibility to districts which is critically needed to maintain programs and services to students.
- **Support Two-Year Hold Harmless.** With more than half the districts facing a fiscal cliff from the recession, the two-year extension of the Hold Harmless provision in the funding formula provides a necessary lifeline to ensure their continuity.

The League urges you to consider these positions as you continue negotiations on the budget. Given the dynamic situation, the League reserves the right to amend this letter as new information becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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Page Three

cc: Hon. Richard Roth, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee # 2  
Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
Lande Ajose, Office of the Governor  
Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance  
Michelle Nguyen, Department of Finance  
Daniel 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  
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Lizette Navarette, Vice Chancellor, California Community Colleges  
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