DATE MONTH 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher

Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, Room 2114

Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via Fax: (916) 319-2181

**Re: AB 2306 (Santiago) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program**

**Position:** Support

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez - Fletcher:

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Community College District, I write to express our **support for AB 2306 (Santiago)**, legislation that would strengthen the Cal Grant Program for community college students by increasing the allowable time to utilize a Cal Grant from four to six years.

Due to the current four-year time limit being able to use a Cal Grant, many community college students decline to utilize their award during some portion of their stay at a California community college. By increasing the allowable time in which a community college student can use their Cal Grant, this bill will ensure that students can utilize their financial aid award at a California community college.

Additionally, by increasing the ability of community college students to access the Cal Grant program, AB 2306 (Santiago) would help new recipients leverage existing financial aid awards in the community college system. Depending on enrollment status, Cal Grant recipients are now eligible for up to $4,000 in additional financial aid awards through Proposition 98.

The state’s Cal Grant awards are a vital tool for economically disadvantaged students who want to attend college. Without access to a Cal Grant award, a student would need to work between 20 and 30 hours a week to cover the cost of attendance at our institutions. By increasing the number of Cal Grants available, AB 2306 (Santiago) will help students focus on academic success, not work.

For these reasons we respectfully urge you to support this bill. If you have any questions, please do hesitate to contact me at PHONE NUMBER or EMAIL.

Sincerely,

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CC: Assemblymember Miguel Santiago

 DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

 Community College League of California