

DATE

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
California State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Sent via Fax: (916) 319-2181

**Re: AB 1892 (Medina) – Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant C Awards**  
**Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, I write to express our **support for AB 1892 (Medina)**, legislation reforming the Cal Grant C program to better serve community college students.

The greatest workforce development opportunity for the state is through our 113 community colleges. In addition to transfer programs, California community colleges are ideal for learning a trade or obtaining meaningful workforce certification. Our institutions currently provide the opportunity for over two million students to improve their lives and contribute to the economic vitality of this state. The Cal Grant C program was intended to support California's career technical education (CTE) students, but as currently designed, treats community college students inequitably. AB 1892 addresses this design flaw and strengthens the state's commitment to workforce development.

Thanks to the progressive vision of leaders such as yourself, nearly 60% of all California's community college students attend tuition-free and for those who do pay we offer the lowest fees in the nation. It is by far the largest and furthest reaching free community college plan in the US. However, as every family knows, college affordability requires covering costs beyond tuition.

Despite the low cost of tuition in this state, our students face the same level of living costs, such as housing, food, health care, childcare, and transportation, as students in our other higher education systems within the state. Nevertheless, community college students are currently only eligible for the Cal Grant C Access award, or \$548. This lower award for CTE students hinders their academic success and ultimately the productivity of the state's economy.

This lack of financial aid support forces community college students to work more, take a reduced course loads and focus less on their classes. By making this relatively small and targeted investment in our students, AB 1892 (Medina) would ultimately save the state resources by helping our students reduce their time completing workforce development programs.

AB 1892 (Medina) modernizes the Cal Grant C program to better serve community college students and California's employers. Specifically it would:

- **Increase the Cal Grant C Access Award to \$3,000.**
- **Permit the award to be used for all living expenses.**
- **Create an entitlement program for career technical education students similar to the Cal Grant A or B programs.**

Each of these reforms will increase the amount of financial aid resources available to community college students. We respectfully urge you to support AB 1892 (Medina). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL

CC: Assemblymember Jose Medina, (916) 319-2061  
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Christian Osmena, Department of Finance, (916) 323-9539  
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