DATE

The Honorable Jose Medina

Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee

California State Capitol, Room 173

Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via Fax: (916) 319-3961

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

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Medina;

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

Community colleges are California’s great workforce development opportunity. In addition to transfer programs, California’s community colleges are the place where Californians can learn a trade or obtain a workforce certificate. Our institutions provide an opportunity for thousands of students to improve their lives and contribute to the economy of this state. The Cal Grant C was intended to support California’s CTE students, but the program, as designed, treats community college students inequitably. AB 1892 will change that and restore our states commitment to workforce development.

At California’s community colleges, nearly 60% of the students receive free tuition and those who do, pay the lowest fees in the nation. It is by far the most progressive and farthest reaching free community college plan in the nation. Yet California has learned that college affordability means 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 or transportation, as students in other higher education systems . Community college students are only eligible for the Cal Grant C Access award, or $548. By offering a lower award for CTE students than students in transfer program, the state arbitrarily discriminate against CTE students. This lack of financial aid support has forced community college students to work more, take a reduced course load and focus less on their classes.

AB 1891 (Medina) would make various changes to the Cal Grant C program that would reform it to better serve community college students. Specifically it would:

* **Increase the Cal Grant C Access Award to $3,000.**
* **Permit that 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 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) 319-2161

 Community College League of California, (916) 444-2954

 Speaker Anthony Rendon, (916) 319-2178

 Assembly Republican Caucus (916) 319-2176