DATE

The Honorable Josh Newman, Chair
Senate Education Committee

1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA  95814

**Re: AB 358 (Addis): Community College Districts: Student Housing – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Newman,

On behalf of DISTRICT NAME, **I write in support of Assembly Bill 358 by Assemblymember Dawn Addis,** which would give California community colleges the much-needed flexibility to address the housing needs of their students. This bill would exempt student housing architectural plans from the requirement to receive approval from the Department of General Services’ (DGS) Division of the State Architect (DSA), creating parity with CSU and UC campus housing.

Access to reliable housing is a top priority for California’s community colleges. According to a 2020 report published by the UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools, 1 in 5 community college students experience homelessness. Students experiencing homelessness are more likely to be Latinx and Black and are less likely to succeed in their courses compared to their peers. Stable housing is a fundamental basic need for community college students and is a crucial tool for achieving equity and academic success for all. Community colleges are stepping up for student housing, and the additional flexibility permitted in AB 358 (Addis) would allow colleges to initiate and complete projects on a faster timeline.

AB 358 (Addis) would accelerate the building process for student housing by removing bureaucratic barriers and enhancing flexibility to reduce construction costs. Currently, community college housing is dramatically delayed by the DSA approval process. As housing plans wait long months for approval, construction costs rise and projects are delayed, forcing colleges to scramble to find additional funding to meet the unexpected delay and associated rise in costs. This problem uniquely exists within the CCC system, as CSU and UC housing plans do not have DSA oversight. As California begins to invest in community college student housing, it is necessary to give campuses the proper tools to adequately meet the housing needs of their students in a timely manner.

For these reasons, DISTRICT NAME supports AB 358 (Addis). If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at PHONE NUMBER or E-MAIL.

Sincerely,

-SIGNATURE-

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

TITLE

DISTRICT NAME

CC: Assemblymember Dawn Addis

 Members, Senate Education Committee