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for California Community Colleges

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April 28, 2016

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support AB 1721 (Medina, As of 1/28/2016) Student Financial Aid:  
Cal Grant Program.**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is writing to express its support for AB 1721 (Medina), which would express the intent of the Legislature to renew California's commitment to college affordability by increasing the aid available to needy students through expanding the Cal Grant Program.

Any costs associated with this legislation would be absorbable and would be more than worthwhile in terms of the bill's potential benefits to students and the California economy as a whole.

President Obama has recognized both the importance of community colleges in higher education and the need to reduce financial barriers to higher education by proposing free tuition for students who attend community college. California has been providing free or low cost tuition for community college students for over 40 years, currently allowing nearly 60% of community college students to receive free tuition, yet the total cost of all expenses and lack of sufficient financial aid often make community college attendance in California more expensive than attending the University of California or the California State University.

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

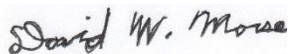
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AB 1721 would increase Cal Grant B Access Awards from \$1,551 to \$3,000, increase the number of competitive awards from 25,750 to 30,000, and increase the age limit to be eligible for the transfer entitlement from 28 to 31. These changes would offer a substantial benefit to students in the California community colleges by increasing access and allowing more students to achieve their goals. AB 1721 would thus ultimately benefit both the students themselves and the California economy by producing a more educated workforce

**For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 1721 (Medina, as of 01/28/16).** Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



David Morse

President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Jose Medina

Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee