

April 6, 2018

Honorable Senator Bill Monning  
State Capitol  
1315 10th Street, Room 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Monning,

We write to you today representing the eight community college districts along California's Central Coast. Our single-college districts share many characteristics and often share the challenges that come from serving students in a region that lacks much of the educational access found in large cities.

You are undoubtedly aware of the proposed revisions to the community college funding formula being discussed in Sacramento at this time. We agree that our current funding model, based solely on enrollment, is insufficient to address the needs of California's 114 colleges. However, we are concerned with the unintended consequences that will arise from moving to a new formula without appropriate due diligence.

The Governor's proposed budget includes a revised funding formula that would begin to award 50 percent of a college's base budget on enrollment, 25 percent targeted to address equity issues, and 25 percent based on performance. The legislative analysis completed by the staff of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education raises some serious concerns about the proposal. As originally constructed, the proposal represents a radical shift in funding approaches to \$6 billion worth of appropriations for the nation's single largest system of higher education. At a time when we need to expand access and completion to meet the state's workforce needs, the current proposal results in funding reductions for more than half of the college districts in the system. The proposed impacts on at least three of our eight Central Coast colleges would be devastating.

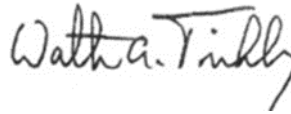
While we are deeply concerned about the proposed formula, we should be clear that we are supportive of moving to a system that recognizes the equity needs of our colleges and rewards performance for moving the needle on completion. We know that the state needs an influx of highly skilled workers, and California's community colleges are stepping up to provide those workers. Since 2012, our colleges have increased the number of degrees and certificates awarded by more than 50 percent - a combined total of a quarter-million additional degrees and certificates

We are supportive of the work of our CEO colleagues that have been examining the proposal for the past two months. With less than a month to go until the May Revise, the workgroup has developed guiding principles that will be the basis for an upcoming recommendation. Those principles include:

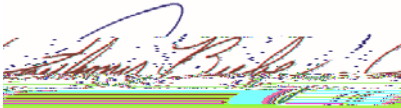
- Significantly increase base funding before implementation of a new funding formula;



Willard Lewallen, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/President  
Hartnell College



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cc: Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges  
Larry Galizio, President, Community College League of California  
Brian King, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District