September 17, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2160 (Ting) Cal Grant Program: grade point average

REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, I respectfully urge you to sign Assembly Bill 2160 by Assembly Member Philip Ting. AB 2160 requires public high schools, including charter schools, to electronically submit grade point average (GPA) verification of all seniors to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), unless that pupil has chosen to opt-out. AB 2160 requires CSAC to deem public school seniors to be Cal Grant applicants, and requires school personnel to notify parents and students of this designation and the opt-out choice for families.

The number of students applying for a Cal Grant rose by 30,000 applicants from 2012 to 2013, when the number of high schools using an electronic GPA increased. The GPA verification form is one of two steps in the application process, and it is not always completed; rendering the application incomplete and the student ineligible for aid. Based on recent experience, AB 2160 holds great promise to improve access to the Cal Grant program for thousands of students statewide. Students who attend community colleges will already be deemed Cal Grant applicants, and if eligible, these funds will not only help them pursue their higher education goals but should help provide the means for them to enroll as full-time-students.

I thank you for your consideration and urge you to sign AB 2160 (Ting). If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-4434.

Sincerely,

Brice W. Harris
Chancellor

cc: Assembly Member Philip Ting