August 27, 2014

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

RE: SB 1023 (Liu) Community Colleges: Support Service for Foster Youth

REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, I urge your signature of Senate Bill 1023 by Senator Carol Liu, which establishes the Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) program at ten community college districts. SB 1023 will take advantage of the infrastructure of the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) by creating the CAFYES as a supplemental piece of EOPS.

Since 1969, EOPS has provided guidance, motivation, support services and resources to help students complete their educational goals. CAYES will extend the program to foster youth that don’t already qualify for EOPS and allow them to utilize its services. Approximately 16,000 current and former foster youth attend a California community college. These students are faced with substantial barriers to academic success and SB 1023 will provide services that will assist them in attaining their educational goals.

SB 1023 will also bolster the efforts of our Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI). Established in 2006, FYSI has created a network of liaisons at each of our 112 campuses. These liaisons have provided services similar to what SB 1023 will provide, including individualized counseling, specialized tutoring etc. However, FYSI is a voluntary, unfunded program and a FYSI liaison is typically someone who wears many other hats. SB 1023 is a step toward making the FYSI a fully functional program that assists all foster youth in the community college system.

I thank you for your consideration and urge you to sign Senate Bill 1023. 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: Senator Carol Liu