



California Community College Association for Occupational Education

Meeting the Education & Training Needs of California's Workforce

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 5072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 15 (Leyva)/As Introduced
Position: Support

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the California Community Colleges Association for Occupational Education (CCCAOE), I urge your support for SB 15 (Leyva), legislation that expands access to Cal Grant C awards by removing time constraints for recipients and establishing an annual maximum amount for tuition, fees, and other costs.

The Cal Grant C is designed for students enrolled in Career Technical Education (CTE), a subject of deep importance to the Legislature and Governor. Last year's infusion of \$200 million into the Strong Workforce proposal is already helping to strengthen our offerings and expand opportunity to our students. Currently, our community colleges offer roughly 8,000 CTE certificate programs and 4,500 associate degree programs. These are fundamental to ensuring the future workforce of our state, and retraining for those striving to keep pace with the ongoing changes in technology.

Just as we have invested more money into CTE, we now must examine the access and affordability needs of our students. The California Student Aid Commission has worked diligently to serve our students under the criteria established in law. Expanding educational opportunity for CTE students through increased Cal Grant C awards is sensible policy, complimenting other efforts of the California Community Colleges.

CCCAOE stands ready to work with you on SB 15 and other policy and fiscal proposals on CTE. We are grateful to you for your prior support and appreciate your AYE vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

Julius Sokenu
President

cc: Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Connie Leyva