



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

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Website: www.ccleague.org

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 91 (Alvarez) – Community colleges: exemption from nonresident tuition fee: residence near the California-Mexico border

Position: **Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Community College League of California, **I respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 91 by Assemblymember David Alvarez**, which would expand access to California community colleges to low-income, binational community college students residing within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border.

According to a 2022 report by the University of San Diego, the Cali Baja border region is the largest integrated economic zone along the U.S.-Mexico border. The region is composed of the San Diego and Imperial Counties, and the Mexican cities that make up the state of Baja California. A significant number of residents in the region frequently cross the border every day to commute to work or to attend school, including binational students attending community college in the San Diego and Imperial Counties.

AB 91 (Alvarez) would establish a path toward an affordable and accessible higher education for low-income students in the border region. By gaining exemption from the nonresident tuition rate, California's most southern community colleges will open their doors to a population of students who are eager to take control over their education and gain the necessary skills to join the cross-border workforce. This bill meets the local needs of the unique border region community and would have a profound impact on students.

For these reasons, the Community College League of California respectfully requests your signature on AB 91 (Alvarez). If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 444-8641 or nune@ccleague.org.

Sincerely,

Nune Garipian
Senior Policy Advocate
Community College League of California

CC: Assemblymember David Alvarez