DATE

The Honorable Mike Fong, Chair

Assembly Higher Education Committee

1020 N Street, Room 173

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 895 (Roth): Community Colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Fong,

On behalf of DISTRICT NAME**,** I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 895 by Senator Richard Roth, which addresses California’s healthcare workforce needs by authorizing 15 community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

Traditionally, an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) has been the basic credential requirement for employment as a Registered Nurse (RN) in a healthcare facility. However, the healthcare workforce requirements are changing, and hospitals are increasingly preferring and requiring a BSN degree. A 2021 Health Impact report found that 18% of California hospitals surveyed stated that a BSN was required for employment – twice the percentage noted in 2017 – and 54.3% reported a preference for hiring BSN nurses. Additionally, 31.5% of ADN-holding nurses stated that the lack of a BSN degree was given as the reason for their failure to be hired.

Currently, when students are not admitted into a public nursing program, they turn to for-profit and private institutions. According to the Board of Registered Nursing, the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) only produce around 25% of the total BSN graduates. The remaining 75% of BSN graduates come from private institutions, which have established a hold on nursing education. While private universities may be a good option for some students, it is an unnecessarily expensive option when the local community college could offer the program at a fraction of the cost. Many capable students are priced out of the option to attend a private university or are forced to take out significant loans, creating generational debt and perpetuating socioeconomic disparities.

SB 895 represents an opportunity to utilize California’s community colleges to create an affordable and accessible pathway towards a BSN degree, leading to advanced career placements for the State’s most diverse students, and an increased pool of BSN-educated nurses for the State’s healthcare workforce. By utilizing the existing ADN infrastructure, SB 895 ensures that there are no significant new costs associated with beginning BSN pilot programs.

[Please insert district or regional-specific reasons for supporting SB 895, emphasizing the bill’s impact on your students and local community.]

For these reasons, DISTRICT NAME urges your support for SB 895. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at PHONE NUMBER or E-MAIL.

Sincerely,

-SIGNATURE-

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

TITLE

DISTRICT NAME