

[Letterhead]

[Date]

The Honorable Jose Medina
Chair of Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 295 (Jones-Sawyer) – Free College for California Students

Dear Chairman Medina,

On behalf of [organization's name], I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 295 (Jones-Sawyer) which would create a workgroup of higher education students, administration, faculty, and staff to develop a pilot program for free college in California.

After implementing tuition-free college through the Master Plan for Higher Education, the state has since moved in an entirely different direction, as California State University (CSU) tuition and fees have increased by 1360% and University of California (UC) tuition and fees have increased by 555%. Despite increasing investment in the Middle Class Scholarship, many students remain unable to afford the state's public universities' full cost of attendance. As higher education becomes less affordable, access for historically marginalized communities further diminishes.

[Insert organization's background and/or specific stories or cases to emphasize the need for this bill]

AB 295 would convene a workgroup of representatives from each level of our college system, including the California Community Colleges, CSU, and UC, as well as faculty, staff, and students to design a pilot program that would provide California students with a free college education. This pilot program would give the Legislature insight on how to replace the current model of charging students for the cost of attending a public postsecondary institution.

For reasons previously stated, [Name of organization] is pleased to support AB 295 (Jones-Sawyer). We understand that committees are hearing fewer bills as a result of the pandemic, but we strongly urge you to set this bill for a hearing. We thank you in advance for your support for AB 295 (Jones-Sawyer) when it is heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Sincerely,

[Signature
Name
Address
Contact Information]

cc: Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Assembly District 59