

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Expansion of College Promise - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assemblymember TingL

The County of Monterey strongly supports the Governor's January Budget proposal to expand the College Promise Program.

The Governor proposes \$40 million in new funding to expand the California College Promise (Assembly Bill 19 of 2017). The additional funds are estimated to be the amount needed to cover students' second year of attendance. Although this initiative is associated with "free college," the structure of the initiative allows Community College Districts to decide how best to use the dollars.

Under current law, districts can use funds to waive or buy out enrollment fees for any first-time, full-time California students for up to one year. Districts also can decide to use the funds for other purposes, such as providing grants to students to pay non-fee expenses, working with local education agencies to promote college preparedness and attendance, or providing other services to foster better outcomes for students. Under the Governor's proposal, districts would be authorized to waive fees for up to two years.

For these reasons, we support the expansion of the College Promise Program and any other resources for community college students to have their basic needs met so students can be successful in attaining their educational goals. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy advisors, Jennifer Capitolo and Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Monning  
Senator Anna Caballero  
Assemblymember Mark Stone  
Assemblymember Robert Rivas  
California State Association of Counties