[DATE]

The Honorable Mike Fong, Chair

Assembly Committee on Higher Education Committee

Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 173

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1885 (Addis)**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chair Fong,

(your organization) is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1885, which expands financial aid access for students with disabilities.

The Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) is currently open to community college students who are enrolled full time, or a minimum of 12 semester units. However, a population of students in Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) receive special accommodations due to their disability and are classified as full time if they are enrolled in at least 9 units. These students have access to the Cal Grant award, but not the SSCG. This creates a disparity in how we support students with disabilities. The DSPS students with special accommodations should not be shut out of financial aid opportunities that other full time students have access to.

According to survey data from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), students with disabilities receive 15% less financial aid than non-disabled students. Under AB 1885, students with disabilities are eligible to receive up to $1,298 per semester through the SSCG. This is a win for our students with disabilities and it will go a long way in covering the cost of college attendance.

We thank Assemblymember Addis for her leadership on this bill, and we respectfully request for your support for AB 1885.

Sincerely,

[NAME & TITLE]

cc: Members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee

 Assemblymember Dawn Addis