[DATE]

The Honorable Mike Fong

California State Assembly

1021 O Street, Room 5230

Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 1891 (Weber) Multicriteria Screening for Allied Health Programs — SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Fong,

The [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] is pleased to **SUPPORT** Assembly Bill 1891 by Assemblymember Weber. This bill would authorize community colleges to use multicriteria screening for allied health programs.

While community colleges are open access institutions, some programs are limited in their enrollment due to high demand and insufficient capacity. The current practice of using a lottery system or a “first-come, first-serve” approach for admissions is simply **not equitable**. Students should not have to rely on a luck of a draw to be considered for admission. This bill would allow limited enrollment allied health care programs to give additional consideration to students who are disabled, first-generation, low-income, who speak other languages besides English, or have previously earned a degree or certificate. As California’s population grows older and more diverse, the demand for a trained and culturally competent health professional workforce will increase.

This bill would enable community colleges to enroll students in allied health care programs with a diverse range of professional and life experiences. These traits lead to increased persistence and graduation rates. In fact, multicriteria screening is already a proven method of improving the academic success and diversity of community college nursing programs, but the law only currently allows community college nursing programs to use multicriteria screening. Allied health programs should have the same opportunity.

We thank you for your support on this vitally important issue and respectfully request for your support of AB 1891.

Sincerely,

[NAME & TITLE]

cc: Members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee

 Assembly Member Akiliah Weber, M.D.