



# LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 5, 2011

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*Executive Director*

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
Member, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 500**

Dear Senator Hancock:

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 500, the measure you have authored to preserve support and funding for existing partnership academies scheduled to expire on June 30, 2012.

The Commission supports this measure based on findings and recommendations in its report, *Career Technical Education: Creating Options for High School Success* (November 2007). In this report, the Commission identified California Partnership Academies as the most studied model for career technical education. The studies reviewed by the Commission revealed that students that attend partnership academies have higher success rates on the California High School Exit Exam and had higher graduation rates than their peers who were not enrolled in academies. The studies also have shown partnership academy students in California also have higher attendance rates and course completion rates than their peers who were not enrolled in academies. Additionally, 50 percent of academy graduates met the college A-G requirements, compared with a statewide rate of 35 percent.

In its report, the Commission recommended the state expand and replicate successful career-themed high schools and effective career technical education programs. Although SB 500 does not expand partnership academies, it preserves funding for school programs currently using this model that has proven successful for at-risk students.

As the bill moves through the committee process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Drown".

Stuart Drown  
Executive Director

c: Commissioners