



State of California

# LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 11, 2016

Pedro Nava  
*Chairman*

Scott Barnett

David Beier

Anthony Cannella  
*Senator*

Jack Flanigan

Chad Mayes  
*Assemblymember*

Don Perata

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas  
*Assemblymember*

Richard Roth  
*Senator*

Jonathan Shapiro

Janna Sidley

Helen Torres

Sean Varner

Carole D'Elia  
*Executive Director*

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez  
Assemblymember, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6025  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1741**

Dear Assemblymember Rodriguez:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 1741, the measure authored to create the California College Promise Innovation Grant Program.

In researching its 2013 report, *A New Plan for a New Economy: Reimagining Higher Education*, the Commission found that the state's current plan and resources for supporting higher education to be lacking. Enrollment at California's community colleges was down by more than 500,000 students in 2013 from the 2008 peak of 2.93 million part-time and full-time students. The Commission recommended that a new master plan for higher education be developed, with the goal to substantially increase the number of students with degrees, certificates or diplomas, as well as to increase higher education participation for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Commission also specifically highlighted the Long Beach College Promise and recommended the Legislature provide incentives for districts and colleges to collaborate and expand counseling and outreach to K-12 students in areas that have both state college campuses and community college districts. AB 1741 establishes the California College Promise Innovation Grant Program, which would award grants to support programs with the goals of increasing the number and percentage of high school students attending college directly from high school, as well as students attending community or career technical education schools.

Because Assembly Bill 1741 shares the Commission's belief in increasing the number of students receiving higher education through various means and provides an opportunity to replicate the Long Beach College Promise, the Commission supports this measure.

The Little Hoover Commission supports this common sense measure to improve California's higher education program, and encourages a yes vote on AB 1741. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia  
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission