



State of California

# LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 13, 2015

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Carole D'Elia  
*Executive Director*

The Honorable Carol Liu  
Senator, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5097  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 42**

Dear Senator Liu:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Senate Bill 42, the measure you have authored that would re-establish and recast the now-defunct California Postsecondary Education Commission as the California Commission on Higher Education Performance and Accountability.

In researching its 2013 report, *A New Plan for a New Economy: Reimagining Higher Education*, the Commission experienced difficulty in obtaining data about the operations and performance of the different segments within the state's higher education system. The Commission attributed this deficiency, in part, to the lack an agency tasked with providing coordination among the systems and developing higher education policy for the state, as envisioned by the Master Plan. The Commission observed that collaboration among the higher education segments is not culturally instinctual, as demonstrated by efforts to develop transfer and articulation agreements among the segments, despite the fact that such a partnership would serve the best interests of the students and the state as a whole.

The Commission found that an oversight body is essential to ensuring that the state's public higher education institutions coordinate their activities and develop joint strategies and recommended the creation of an oversight body with the authority to obtain financial, workload and outcomes data from all institutions of California public higher education. The Commission recommended this oversight body have the authority to require coordination among segments on data collection and transfer policies. Further, the Commission recommended that the state should seek input from students, alumni, civic organizations, local governments and business and economic development leaders in crafting higher education policy.

Senate Bill 42 would implement the Commission's recommendations and as a result, the Commission supports this measure.

As the bill moves through the legislative process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia  
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission