

[Date]

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of [insert organization name here], I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 358 (Liu). This bill reestablishes a policy for adjusting the Cal Grant maximum award for students attending independent colleges and universities. Assembly Bill 358 would strengthen the program by assuring that all awards for students are set by a long-term policy that provides consistency in how students are treated over time, thus allowing students and families to make better financial plans for their college experience.

Currently, there is no funding policy for Cal Grant students attending independent colleges, leaving them subject to dramatic cuts in the funding levels for their Cal Grants awards. During the last two budget cycles there have been cuts to the maximum size of the awards, leaving students struggling to pay their tuition and fees. AB 358 would offer Cal Grant students at independent colleges, including Latino students who traditionally have been underserved in higher education, stability in funding their educational experience and would allow them to obtain their dream of a college degree.

While I understand you may have concerns about setting a policy that dictates future state spending on these Cal Grants, this bill provides only intent language to set a minimum floor for the Cal Grant. Furthermore, I believe that the benefits derived from an educated workforce far outweigh the costs associated with providing Cal Grants to these students.

I respectfully request that you sign AB 358 into law when it comes before you.

Should you require any additional information, please contact [insert appropriate information here].

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Address if not on letterhead

cc: The Honorable Carol Liu, (916) 319-2144 fax
Alan Bersin, Secretary of Education, (916) 323-3753 fax
Richard Costigan, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Affairs Secretary, (916) 324-6358 fax
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