

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA**

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September 10, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1406 (Hill): Community College Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program  
Position: SUPPORT – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California Community College Trustees (CCCT), the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) Boards of the Community College League of California (The League), I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1406 (Hill) to extend the student registration provision for the community college baccalaureate pilot program to the 2022-23 academic year.

The 15 community college pilot baccalaureate programs have discovered that the current pilot sunset date of 2023 creates programmatic obstacles for current and future students, and it taints the analysis of the pilots by introducing a variable affecting enrollment and related operational issues.

The 2023 sunset date deters students from enrolling since they are concerned with completing the programs in advance of the deadline. This not only deters future enrollment in the programs, it contaminates the analysis of the pilot program by introducing an artificial barrier to enrollment. Moreover, extension of the registration period would offer more data for the Legislative Analysts' Office (LAO) analysis of the pilot programs.

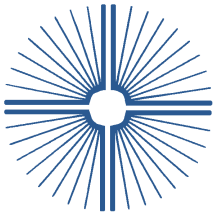
SB 1406 provides a necessary modification to the existing community college baccalaureate pilot program. These degrees will increase student access to career education programs and benefit local employers and communities. Further, by extending the enrollment date, colleges can continue essential partnerships with local high schools to recruit prospective students without the fear of the program being eliminated in four years.

The extension of the bill will not incur any costs to the state. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has determined that, with development work complete, its costs would be minimal and absorbable. The bill you are considering is cost-neutral. Further, expansion of the pilot program is not currently part of SB 1406. The pilot program's degrees are workforce program degrees, applied program degrees that are not offered by any public university in California.

A substantial number of career fields and employers now require or give preference to a bachelor's degree, yet many public universities do not offer these applied degree programs leading directly to living-wage employment. Presently, twenty-two states have authorized their community colleges to confer bachelor's degrees in selected workforce fields. Over eighty community colleges nationally now offer over five hundred bachelor's degrees in applied fields.

Some important facts among the bachelor's programs in the pilot:

- The programs address specific workforce needs in their regions.



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- Public universities in California do not offer bachelor's degree programs in these fields.
- These programs serve a diverse student population, with 63% coming from underrepresented groups and 72% being women.
- The programs are high-quality- often building upon successful associate degree programs already offered - and low-cost, with the total cost for students for all four years being \$10,560. Thus, associate degree students, many of whom are place-bound, now have a defined and locally-accessible pathway to the baccalaureate in their field of study.

Workforce education and development is central to the mission of California's community colleges. Thus, these applied baccalaureate degree programs are logical extensions of our mission. In the absence of affordable and accessible workforce degrees, students seeking further education in these fields have only two options: either leave the state or enroll in high-cost programs in private or for-profit institutions whose track records of success are dubious and whose students are often left with crushing debt and few, if any, job prospects.

Senate Bill 1406 addresses both of the aforementioned concerns and will provide policymakers and California Community College stakeholders the means to effectively evaluate these 15 pilot baccalaureate degree programs.

The League respectfully requests your signature for SB 1406. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our support of SB 1406, please contact Larry Galizio, President & CEO of the League at (916) 245-5032 or [galizio@ccleague.org](mailto:galizio@ccleague.org).

Sincerely,

Larry Galizio  
President & CEO  
Community College League of California

cc:  
The Honorable Jerry Hill  
Lark Park, Senior Advisor for Policy, Office of the Governor