DATE

The Honorable Josh Newman, Chair
Senate Education Committee

1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA  95814

**RE: SB 895 (Roth) Community Colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program (as amended, 04/01/24)**

**Position – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Newman,

On behalf of DISTRICT NAME**,** I am writing to express our strong support for SB 895 by Senator Richard Roth, which would address California’s nursing shortage by authorizing 15 community college districts to award Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees.

California is suffering from a shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs). In 2018, more than 85% of hospitals in California reported that the demand for RNs was greater than the available supply – a public health crisis that has not improved and has instead been exacerbated by the global pandemic.

Historically, the community college Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) has been the basic credential requirement for employment as an RN in a healthcare facility; and four-year institutions have traditionally awarded the BSN degree. However, the healthcare workforce requirements are changing, and hospitals are increasingly preferring and requiring a BSN degree. According to a 2021 Health Impact report, 18% of California hospitals surveyed stated that a BSN was required for employment – twice the percentage noted in 2017 – and 54.3% of hospitals reported a preference for hiring nurses with BSN degrees.

SB 895 (Roth) bridges the nursing gap in the State by utilizing existing ADN programs at community colleges to address the lack of capacity in public, four-year nursing schools. With the difference between an ADN and a BSN being only an additional 30 units of upper-division, major coursework, several ADN programs are well positioned to expand their offerings to BSN degrees. SB 895 (Roth) establishes a sustainable and cost-neutral path forward for community colleges to meet the community and workforce demand for more nurses.

[OPTIONAL: INSERT DISTRICT-SPECIFIC REASONS FOR SUPPORTING SB 895]

For these reasons, DISTRICT NAME urges your support for SB 895 (Roth). If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at PHONE NUMBER or E-MAIL.

Sincerely,

-SIGNATURE-

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

TITLE

DISTRICT NAME