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STATEMENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF SB 1050 (DE LEÓN)
Increasing the number of California K-12 students eligible for the state's public universities
and ensuring seats for California students at the University of California

Today, California Senate pro Tempore Kevin de León (Los Angeles) introduced visionary legislation that ensures a student's zip code or income status does not determine whether they are adequately prepared and get the opportunity to go to college.

Now more than ever, California needs more students to earn a bachelor's degree – our economy demands it. By 2030, 38% of all jobs will require at least a bachelor's degree. But if current trends persist, only 33% of adults will hold a bachelor's degree leaving the workforce 1.1 million bachelor degree holders short. Businesses need more college educated workers and students know they need more than a high school diploma to realize their full potential and make it into the middle class.

The Campaign for College Opportunity is proud to support SB 1050 because it provides our schools with the resources they need to support and prepare more students for college while demanding that the University of California (UC) continues to increase the number of Californians it serves in order to receive additional state funding.

SB 1050 directs state resources to those students who are in most need of support to be college ready and get through the college admissions process. Unfortunately, where a student attends high school determines whether they have the opportunity and preparation to go to college. High schools that serve a large number of low-income students have unequal access to Honors, Advanced Placement courses, and college counselors that are key to making an applicant competitive for the UC and California State University (CSU). These same students cannot afford expensive test preparation courses or a college application consultant that their wealthier peers have the ability to access. SB 1050 levels the playing field by setting up a K-12 College Readiness Block Grant so students have the classes, counseling, and other supports they need to be competitive applicants to the UC and CSU.

SB 1050 also ensures more qualified California high school students find their rightful spot across the nine undergraduate UC campuses. Today, it is much harder for all California residents to get into the UC system. Our recent report, [*Access Denied: Rising Selectivity at California Public Universities*](#), found that the average weighted GPA of admitted UC students was above a 4.0 at six of the nine UC campuses. In the fall of 2015, nearly 13,000 eligible applicants to the UC were not admitted to their campus of choice and were offered a spot at UC Merced but only 237 students accepted the offer.

SB 1050 makes sure that when the state budget gives UC resources to grow enrollment, that the growth comes from our California students and that the growth is across all UC campuses, not just a select few.

“Senator de León understands the value of investing in our state's human capital. We have bright young students who are eager to learn and everyday are defying the odds by wanting to become the first in their families to go to college. These are the very young people that will carry California into the future – they are our future health care providers, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs. But their future is contingent on

our resolve to make sure they have an equal shot at succeeding regardless of where they live or their economic status. We are proud to stand by Senate pro Tempore de León in support of all our students and this critical down payment on California's future," concluded Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

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About Campaign for College Opportunity:

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit www.CollegeCampaign.org / [Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).