

VIA EMAIL

August 2, 2026

Dear Madam/Sir:

This correspondence is offered in support of California Senate Bill 1255. Our organization, the San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education (SD Concilio) advocates for the access and success of Chicano/Latino students in local colleges and universities. We believe that SB 1255 will contribute to positive outcomes for Chicano/Latino students, who constitute the majority of California's high school graduates.

The research of higher education scholars such as Gina Garcia, Sylvia Hurtado, and others, documents the institutional conditions necessary to facilitate success for Chicano/Latino students. Accordingly, SB 1255 provides several critical elements, including a mission statement, academic focus, and support services that maintain an institutional priority on Chicano/Latino students.

For over three decades, academic evidence has emphasized the inextricable connection between Chicano/Latino student success and the socioeconomic fabric of California. SB 1255 provides a necessary state government acknowledgement of that connection by increasing accountability for California's higher education institutions. We strongly urge the passage of SB 1255.

Sinceramente,

Patrick Velasquez, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, San Diego Concilio