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Executive Director Krystinne Mica May 16, 2022

Members of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education 1020 N Street, Room 173 Sacramento, CA 95814

Members of the Committee on Appropriations 1021 O Street, Suite 8220 Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: Support AB 2255 (Fong, 2022)

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and Members of the Committee on Appropriations:

On May 6, 2022, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) voted to **support AB 2255** (**Fong, 2022**), the Affordable Broadband Service Program for California Dreamers. This bill would require the Affordable Broadband Service Program for California Dreamers to be developed and administered by the Student Aid Commission, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to provide affordable broadband service to eligible students.

Equitable Access to Technology is one of the ASCCC's legislative priorities for the 21-22 academic year. The ASCCC has long recognized the digital divide evident in the lack of access to technology to support college instruction and services and made system-wide and local recommendations in the 2003 paper *The Impact of Computer Technology on Student Access and Success in The California Community Colleges*. The California community colleges and the communities they serve continue to lack the technology for affordable and sufficient internet access, which became more pronounced with the transition to remote instruction and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, inequitable access to technology disproportionately impacts students and staff, especially students living in poverty, students of color, and students with disabilities.

In light of these issues, in fall 2021 the ASCCC passed <u>Resolution F21 11.01</u>, which directed that the ASCCC work with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and system partners to secure greater state support to ensure equitable access to technology, including hardware, software, and platforms, for the California community colleges and the communities they serve. AB 2255 would align with and further the ASCCC's pursuit of these objectives.

For these reasons, the ASCCC expresses its position of support for AB 2255 (Fong, 2022) as of March 6, 2022.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Dolores Davison, President