

March 15, 2010

To: Members of the California State Legislature  
Re: Letter in support of AB 1761 to provide first-year tuition and fee benefits  
to Cal Grant B recipients

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Dear California State Legislators:

As advocates for more accessible and affordable higher education for students from all backgrounds, we strongly support AB 1761 (Fong), which would provide first-year tuition and fee benefits to Cal Grant B recipients.

Through Cal Grant A, the state already provides four years of tuition and fee support for middle-income students, but students with lower incomes who receive Cal Grant B do not receive tuition and fee support until their second year of college. The structure of Cal Grant B was designed under the assumption that low-income students would attend community colleges, where tuition and fee costs are not a barrier. Today, it has the unintended consequence of steering qualified students away from attending four-year colleges.

AB 1761 would address this inequity, sending a clearer message of affordability to California's low-income students. Providing tuition and fee benefits to Cal Grant B recipients will give them the resources to enroll in the college that best fits their needs and qualifications, and progress towards a degree.

We strongly support AB 1761 and hope you will, too.

Sincerely,



Lauren Asher  
President