

## RESOLUTION

### SAN MATEO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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#### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 893 (BECKER) TO ENABLE FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

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**WHEREAS**, the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) once served over 45,000 students annually through three campuses: Cañada College in Redwood City, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College in San Bruno, however, over the past decade SMCCCD has suffered a severe decline in enrollment totaling over 30%;

**WHEREAS**, California law currently requires local community college districts to charge \$46 per credit unit for classes taken and prohibits community college districts from using locally collected property tax revenues to offset tuition and other non-academic expenses for students; and, as a result, the total cost of enrollment – including tuition, fees, books, technology, transportation, food, rent and other living expenses – can exceed \$15,000 per year for community college students living independently in San Mateo County; and,

**WHEREAS**, SB 893, would permit SMCCCD to reduce or waive tuition and enrollment fees to any amount less than the statutorily mandated \$46/unit, and would allow SMCCCD to use its local generated funds to support certain students to in their total cost of attendance. And this action would effectively transfer wealth from property tax paying landowners to under-resourced students and first-generation college students who reside in San Mateo County, thereby enabling access to the strongest determinant of long-term wealth creation which is educational attainment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee expresses support for SB 893 and its author, Senator Josh Becker, and co-authors, Assemblymembers Kevin Mullin and Marc Berman.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that officers of the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee will forward this resolution to the author's office for use in the legislative process.

Submitted by: The SMCDEMS Subcommittee for Free Community College

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