

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 893 (BECKER) TO ENHANCE ACCESS AND SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS IN NEED

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) serves approximately 45,000 students across three campuses: Cañada College in Redwood City, College of San Mateo in San Mateo, and Skyline College in San Bruno; and

WHEREAS, the total cost to attend community college – including tuition, fees, books, technology, transportation, food, rent and other living expenses – can exceed \$15,000 per year for students who live independently; and

WHEREAS, there are significant socioeconomic and educational gaps within the county and the Promise Scholars Program of SMCCCD has a demand that outpaces the allowable funding received through AB 19 and SMCCCD's limited non-general fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, California law currently prevents local community college districts from charging less than \$46 per unit or using their various local revenues to offset tuition and living expenses for students; and

WHEREAS, if SB 893 is adopted, SMCCCD would be permitted to waive (or charge lower) fees and use its local funds to provide assistance for the total cost of attendance; and

WHEREAS, SB 893 does not increase any state funding for SMCCCD or commit the state to allocate any additional resources to SMCCCD; and

WHEREAS, SB 893 explicitly places the burden of using the allowable flexibility on SMCCCD and further requires the SMCCCD Board of Trustees to adopt appropriate and necessary policies relating to qualifications for students who would be eligible for reduced fees; and

WHEREAS, by allowing SMCCCD to use local funds to support students' basic needs and by affording the SMCCCD the flexibility to charge less than the currently required state fee rate of \$46 per credit unit (including waiving fees altogether), SMCCCD can make attending college less financially burdensome for students in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, SB 893's flexibility to use unrestricted general fund dollars to support students is likely to have significant impacts throughout the community and can allow the SMCCCD to bridge inequities throughout San Mateo County by making college more accessible and affordable for students, particularly those in marginalized and underrepresented communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County expresses support for SB 893 to enhance equitable efforts in the County and State of California for community college students in need.

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