



August 10, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1146

Dear Senator Lara:

Yesterday, the presidents of California's faith-based higher education institutions received a memo from Kristen F. Soares, president of AICCU, informing us of your intent to amend SB 1146 to only include disclosure requirements, with a new item requiring institutions to disclose reasons for student expulsions to the California Student Aid Commission. We understand that you intend to inform the Assembly Appropriations Committee of these amendments later today. Pending review of this new language, we are pleased to change our position on this legislation from "oppose unless amended" to "support."

Our campuses are safe, loving communities for those who attend, and we agree with and support your efforts to secure student safety and transparency for all students, including those who are members of the LGBT community. We share your care and concern for these students and believe that the disclosure requirements contained in the newly amended bill will further ensure that students select a campus community that is right for them. We also share your concern that students are treated fairly, and we are open to considering a provision that would require disclosure of student dismissals to an appropriate state agency, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other privacy regulations.

Furthermore, we are thankful for your efforts to amend this bill so that Cal Grant eligibility is clearly preserved. Throughout this process, we have been grateful for your persistent efforts to protect Cal Grant funds for students who choose to use their state aid to attend a faith-based college or university. As you know, Cal Grants, when combined with other institutional scholarships, make it possible for these students to attend and graduate from college, and today, faith-based institutions retain and graduate underrepresented and first-generation students at a much higher rate than public institutions. Your consistent advocacy for these students not only validates their decision to attend faith-based institutions, but it also helps to ensure their continued ability to attend a college that best meets their needs.

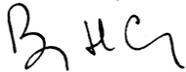
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For more than a hundred years, California's faith-based colleges and universities have been valued partners in California's pluralistic system of higher education, and we are grateful for your efforts to protect and sustain this partnership. Our alumni care deeply about their communities and the well-being of their neighbors and we are pleased that their contributions to California's economy and society help to highlight the importance of our mission. In the months ahead, we look forward to working with you and other members of the California legislature to strengthen this partnership, ensuring that students are educated, supported, and equipped for years to come.

Sincerely,



Jon R. Wallace, DBA
President, Azusa Pacific University



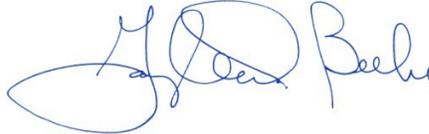
Barry H. Corey, Ph.D.
President, Biola University



Ronald L. Ellis, Ph.D.
President, California Baptist University



Bob I. Brower, Ph.D.
President, Point Loma Nazarene University



Gayle D. Beebe, Ph.D.
President, Westmont College



John J. Jackson, Ph.D.
President, William Jessup University

cc: The Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Chuck Nicol, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Louie, Assembly Republican Fiscal Consultant
Lark Park, Senior Advisor to the Governor