



September 18, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Signature on AB 1400 (Soria)

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), the foremost member-supported professional organization for administrators and managers at California's Community Colleges, I respectfully urge your signature on Assembly Bill (AB) 1400. This bill requires the California Community College Chancellor's Office to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes up to ten select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

Financial Benefits to the State

AB 1400 represents a fiscally responsible investment in California's healthcare workforce. By allowing community colleges to confer BSN degrees, the state can leverage existing Associate Degree in Nursing programs, facilities, and faculty, avoiding the need for significant new infrastructure spending. This maximizes the return on prior state investments, particularly in nursing program expansions supported by initiatives such as the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program.

Additionally, community colleges provide BSN degrees at a fraction of the cost charged by private institutions. The state will therefore produce more BSN-prepared nurses per public dollar, expanding capacity without creating significant new ongoing costs. This efficiency reduces reliance on expensive private or for-profit nursing programs and ensures that state funds translate directly into accessible, affordable education and a stronger workforce pipeline.

Financial Benefits to Students and Families

For California students, AB 1400 will dramatically lower the financial barriers to earning a BSN. Tuition and fees at community colleges are substantially lower than those at California State University campuses or private institutions. By completing a BSN at their local community college, students can avoid excessive debt, remain in their communities, and support their families while advancing their education.

This reduced financial burden is especially critical for students from historically underrepresented and low-income backgrounds, who often face the most significant barriers to higher education. Affordable access to a BSN means more students will graduate with minimal or no debt, allowing them to enter the workforce immediately and contribute to California's economy and tax base without being encumbered by long-term financial hardship.

Strengthening California's Workforce

The healthcare workforce shortage continues to strain California's hospitals and clinics. Many employers now prefer or require a BSN for hiring. AB 1400 ensures a steady pipeline of locally trained, highly qualified nurses who can meet these demands. By reducing educational costs for students and training more BSN nurses within California, the bill helps stabilize the state's healthcare system and minimizes the economic consequences of workforce shortages.

For these reasons, ACCCA strongly supports AB 1400 and respectfully urges your signature on this measure. This measure is not only sound educational policy, but it is also a prudent financial strategy that benefits both California students and the state as a whole.

Sincerely,



Susan K. Bray
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Esmerelda Soria
Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.
Kyle Hyland, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.