

September [REDACTED], 2025

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

RE: Assembly Bill 1400 (Soria) Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program

Dear Governor Newsom,

[REDACTED] strongly supports AB 1400 (Soria) and asks that you sign this measure into law. This bill will require the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program and authorizes 10 Community College Districts (CCD) across the state to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, prioritizing underserved nursing shortage regions, such as the Central Valley and Inland Empire.

AB 1400 is a refined, targeted proposal to help address California's nursing shortage while strengthening collaboration across higher education. This bill creates a limited pilot that tests whether allowing select community colleges to offer local BSN degrees improves graduation rates, equity, and retention. Importantly, it builds on existing CSU and UC partnerships, aligning curriculum, faculty, and clinical placements – not replacing them.

Vetoing this bill would freeze progress at the exact moment our healthcare system is under the most strain. Communities with the fewest resources are bearing the brunt of nurse shortages. AB 1400 offers a responsible way to expand capacity where it's needed most while ensuring the state doesn't have to choose between segments. The goal is simple: more BSN-prepared nurses, trained faster.

This bill also complements, rather than competes with, the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program. Current transfer and dual-enrollment pathways are valuable, but they're often costly, complex,

and geographically inaccessible, especially for rural and low-income students. AB 1400 fills those gaps by creating affordable, local BSN options in areas where they don't exist today.

Finally, AB 1400 advances equity. Latino Californians make up nearly 40% of the population but only 15% of nurses. Black Californians represent 6.5% of the population but just 4% of nurses. Many AAPI students study at community colleges in regions with limited access to four-year programs. By lowering barriers and expanding local pathways, AB 1400 ensures that more nurses reflect the diversity, language, and culture of the communities they serve.

For these reasons, we urge you to sign AB 1400. It is a prudent, collaborative, and urgently needed step toward building the healthcare workforce California requires.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization]