

Date: _____

Dear Legislator:

My name is _____, and I am currently a community college student attending _____ . I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the current and potential future budget cuts to the California Community College system. I cannot express enough my dismay, and disappointments in the drastic cuts and insane fee increases that will terribly degrade my college experience and negatively impact my classes, degree and access to higher education. As a student I depend on my college education as a stepping stone on the path toward a successful future. College degrees are no longer a thing of luxury, they are now a necessity. If I am to have a bright and potential future, I must first attain a degree. Due to these budget cuts and unmanageable fee increases that degree is becoming less and less attainable.

I am hoping that you will seriously consider how these fee increases and budget cuts will directly and immediately impact the future for California and the California economy. Without an education there are fewer people to fill high demand jobs, and even fewer who will have the skills required in specialty fields such as nursing, fire science, technology, and engineering. A great deal of these imperative skills are attained in community colleges all over California. By continuing to cut funding for community colleges the legislature is making a grave mistake that has the potential of crippling economic prosperity. The 2.9 million students in California Community Colleges are screaming in protest as they watch their futures flushed down the toilet by a wave of the legislative hand. I am one of these students.

Categorical programs are one of the most important resources students have within the colleges. It is also one of the areas that has received devastating budget cuts. These cuts have forced colleges to close their services to many dire need students. Categorical Programs allow disabled students, low income, first generation, and financially challenged students the opportunity to change their circumstances. If the cuts continue many of these families will be forced into further and even lower levels of poverty than they already are. Why hurt the students who are already suffering and struggling to make a life for themselves in a large and unforgiving world. Has it become a legislative value to attack the poor, the needy, and the disabled??? America is supposed to be the land of opportunity and I believe that California itself was founded on this very principle. Categorical programs are not optional nor are they a convenience. These programs are imperative, and necessary to the survival of thousands of Community College Students.

I implore you as a student, a taxpayer, and a voter to stop supporting dramatic fee increases and budget cuts that have the potential of destroying my future, the futures of millions of students and the future of California.

Sincerely,
