

February 1, 2022

Honorable Senator Toni G. Atkins, Chair  
Senate Rules Committee  
State Capitol, Room 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Confirmation of Deborah Cochrane as BPPE Chief**

Dear Senator Atkins,

The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) writes to strongly endorse the appointment of Debbie Cochrane to serve as the Bureau Chief for the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). Ms. Cochrane has been a tireless advocate for the students of California throughout her career, and her work thus far as Bureau Chief has already proved the wisdom of her appointment.

The Bureau serves an essential function for the state of California, tasked with serving as the first line of defense for students who enroll in private postsecondary programs and the primary state-level regulator of for-profit schools in California. The agency's enacting statute states that "...Protection of the public shall be the bureau's highest priority."<sup>1</sup> In her time as Bureau Chief, there has been a noticeable increase in the Bureau's responsiveness, transparency, and proactivity. The Bureau has become a more effective and efficient agency under Ms. Cochrane's leadership, reflecting not only her dedication to protecting students, but also her measured approach and efforts to ensure all stakeholders are represented and considered fairly.

Particularly relevant for this appointment, Ms. Cochrane is an expert on higher education policy and practice, and has testified before state and federal policymakers on a wide range of topics ranging from access to need-based grants to debt relief for defrauded students. In fact, Ms. Cochrane is currently serving as a negotiator for the Department of Education's 2022 Negotiated Rulemaking representing State Higher Education Executive Officers, State Authorizing Agencies, and/or State Regulators of Institutions of Higher Education. Her knowledge, experience, and judgement are widely respected, and represent a true asset for the State of California.

Ms. Cochrane holds an MSW with a focus on social policy from San Francisco State University and a BA from the University of Michigan. Ms. Cochrane worked for many years as the Executive Vice President of TICAS to ensure equitable and affordable higher education

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<sup>1</sup> California Education Code § 94875.

opportunities were available to all of California's students, and she has brought that knowledge and experience to her new role with the Bureau.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Cochrane's appointment as Bureau Chief. Please feel free to reach out to Angela Perry at (510) 318-7902 or [APerry@TICAS.org](mailto:APerry@TICAS.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Perry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Angela Perry  
Director of Policy & Advocacy

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Rules Committee