



THE INSTITUTE FOR COLLEGE
ACCESS & SUCCESS

Senator Josh Newman, Chair
Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1780 (Ting) – Independent Institutions of Higher Education: Legacy and Donor Preference in Admissions: Prohibition – Support as Amended April 18, 2024

Dear Chair Newman,

On behalf of The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), I would like to express strong support for Assembly Bill 1780, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting, which would ensure equitable access to private, nonprofit institutions of higher education through the admissions process. AB 1780 prohibits private, nonprofit institutions from granting legacy or donor preferences in the admissions process through financial penalty mechanisms in the Cal Grant program. The bill also implements accountability measures by requiring the Department of Justice to publicly post the names of the institutions that violate the prohibition on preferential admissions.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, nearly 10% of the state's 400,000+ high school graduates enroll in private institutions of higher education within 12 months of graduation. AB 1780 will bring a level of equitability to the admissions process for high school graduates who seek enrollment at more than 80 private, nonprofit colleges and universities in California.

TICAS strives towards equal access and opportunity for all Californians at institutions of higher education. The implementation of the preferential admissions prohibition will ensure that all prospective students have equal access opportunities regardless of their families' income status or academic history.

We are proud to support AB 1780 and request your "Aye" vote at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Rodriguez
Director, Policy and Advocacy
The Institute for College Access and Success

CC: Members, Senate Education Committee
Olgalilia Ramirez, Principal Consultant