



July 12, 2017

Board of Governors
Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Letter of Support – Foundation for California Community Colleges Strategic Vision

Dear Members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and Chancellor Oakley;

I am pleased to lend the California Primary Care Association's (CPCA) support for the Vision for Success, a strategic plan for the California Community Colleges. CPCA values its partnership with the California Community Colleges, and has been involved in the Health Workforce Initiative for several years sharing industry needs and promoting the development of the primary care workforce.

CPCA is the statewide leader and recognized voice of California's community health centers (CHCs) and the patients they serve. CPCA represents 1,150 non-profit CHCs that provide a unique model of comprehensive, quality health care services to over 6 million patients, including low-income, uninsured and underserved Californians who might otherwise not have access to healthcare. These CHCs are committed to building healthy communities by providing primary care and other supportive services. However, it is clear that we cannot deliver on the promise of healthcare access if we do not have a robust and diverse workforce capable of providing timely, culturally competent, high quality patient-centered care. For this reason, CPCA is fully committed to addressing the existing workforce crisis in California and has developed partnerships with many stakeholders and key partners, including the California Community Colleges.

As the Strategic Vision notes, the California Community Colleges are indispensable to developing California's workforce, economy and overall welfare. I commend the Chancellor and the Board for seeking to understand what the state needs from this system. We believe that the Guided Pathways Initiative serves as a model to provide a highly supported and innovative student-centered educational and training experience for students. We are vested in seeing the 35% transfer rate accomplished and look forward to partnering with the community colleges to support the percentage of those students who pursue healthcare careers. We also particularly applaud the community colleges' commitment to match Career Technical Education students to an employer, and hope that we can connect health professions students to community health centers to both receive community-based training as well as to explore employment opportunities.

CPCA supports the Strategic Vision because we see it as being beneficial to developing the primary care workforce in California and in our community health centers. In addition, it has direct linkages to our organizational strategic plan and statewide workforce policy convening efforts. One of the four bold steps in the CPCA Strategic Plan focuses on the need to develop a robust primary care workforce that is responsive to, and reflective of, California's diverse communities. We were particularly pleased to see goal six and the community colleges' commitment to reduce the equity gap among underrepresented students. We look forward to working together as partners on the implementation of these goals, which will increase graduation rates, transfers to four year universities and employment, and decrease equity gaps.

Recognizing that no one organization can address the large workforce issue alone and everyone needs to play a role in a more comprehensive solution, CPCA created a broad-based coalition that focuses explicitly on primary care access and workforce-related policy solutions. Over 60 participants attended our Healthcare Workforce Convening: A Pathway to Building a Long-Term Primary Care Strategy, including Linda Zorn, Statewide Director/Sector Navigator of the Health Workforce Initiative. We need the California Community College support and experience in this space to make a difference and leverage each other's efforts.

Californians care deeply about the future of their community colleges, and the goals and principles recommended in the vision are an important commitment to our State, its residents and to our collective future. CPCA looks forward to continuing and growing collaborations with the California Community Colleges.

Sincerely,



Carmela Castellano-Garcia, Esq.
President and Chief Executive Officer