(Insert Logo)

(Insert Date)

The Honorable Mike Fong, Chair

Assembly Higher Education Committee

1020 N Street, Room 173

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 240 (Alanis) - SUPPORT
As Introduced January 14, 2025

Dear Assemblymember Fong:

(Insert County) supports Assembly Bill 240 (Alanis), which would require the Little Hoover Commission (LHC) to conduct a study evaluating the educational needs and opportunities that exist for the five rural counties that are not included in a California Community College (CCC) district.

Currently, the Counties of Amador, Alpine, Mariposa, Modoc, and Sierra are wholly or partially outside an existing CCC district, leaving those residents without access to much-needed affordable post-secondary educational opportunities. Rural residents face significantly unique challenges to higher education, workforce development, and vocational training due to factors such as remote geographical location and low population density. Community colleges, especially those that offer online options, can provide an accessible entry point to advanced learning, career training, and the ability for high school students to earn college credit to be more competitive in applying to a four-year university. Even without a physical facility in the county, the benefits of being part of a community college district can be seen through CCC partnerships and outreach to the community, driving educational opportunities to the residents. AB 240 will analyze how we can bring those same benefits to the underserved five rural counties through a coordinated effort of representatives from the public higher education system and the affected counties and will present suggested pathways that will ensure all Californians have an equitable opportunity to higher education.

For these reasons, (Insert County) supports AB 240 and respectfully requests your “aye” vote when this measure is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

(Insert Name)

(Insert Title)

cc: Members of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education

 Ellen Cesaretti-Monroy, Senior Consultant, Committee on Higher Education

 Monica Henestroza, Consultant, Office of the Speaker

 Lyndsay Mitchell, Consultant, Republican Caucus

 Eric Will, Rural County Representatives of California