



COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACILITY COALITION

July 31, 2023

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The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Bill 247 (Muratsuchi)

Position: Support

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Community College Facility Coalition (CCFC) is writing to express our strong support for AB 247 (Muratsuchi), as amended July 13, 2023. This bill would place a \$14 billion statewide K-14 education facilities bond on the 2024 ballot.

CCFC is a coalition of community college districts and their private sector partners involved in the construction of community college facilities. California Community Colleges (CCC) are the primary access point to higher education in California, serving approximately 2 million students at 116 colleges and providing a critical transfer pathway to the university system. In recent years, the CCC system has redoubled its efforts to ensure that students achieve their educational goals. Facilities are a critical component to student success, providing the specialized physical space in which students receive job training and educational instruction. Facilities are also integral to supporting student basic needs, providing access to housing, food, health care, financial aid, and more.

The state's community college capital outlay program has a proven history of success, and AB 247 would continue the important partnership between the state and local communities. Voters approved the last state school bond, Proposition 51, in 2016, which provided \$2 billion for community college capital outlay projects. There is no remaining bond authority from Proposition 51 to allocate to new community college projects. The capital outlay program prioritizes health and safety issues, such as seismic retrofits and utility infrastructure upgrades. It also helps districts construct and renovate both instructional and institutional support spaces, ensuring students have the support to reach their educational goals.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office estimates \$29.9 *billion* in unmet capital facilities needs in the five-year period from 2022-23 through 2026-27 for construction and modernization (i.e. renovation). Although many community college districts have successfully passed local bond measures, these resources are insufficient to address their full facilities needs to properly support students.

A new bond is an important investment in California's future and a robust 21st Century education for our students. We strongly support AB 247 and respectfully request your support when the bill is heard in Senate Appropriations Committee.

Regards,



Rebekah Kalleen
CCFC Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Al Muratsuchi, California State Assembly
 The Honorable Mike Fong, California State Assembly
 The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assembly
 Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
 Lenin Del Castillo, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
 Amanda Richie and Scott Seekatz, Senate Republican Caucus