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February 26, 2021

The Honorable Senator Steven Bradford
 California State Senate – 35th District
 State Capitol, Room 3173
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0064

The Honorable Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson
 California State Assembly – District 64
 State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0064

Re: Compton Community College District Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) Hold Harmless Provision Extension Request

Dear Senator Steven Bradford and Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson,

On behalf of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of Compton College and Compton CCD. I am writing to request your support of extending the Compton CCD’s Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) Hold Harmless Provision from 2025-2026 to 2028-2029. The 2017-2018 California State Budget originally provided this provision and assistance for Compton College to effectively transition to an independent accredited college under the authority of Compton CCD Board of Trustees.

The 2020-2021 California State Budget provided Compton CCD with a FTES Hold Harmless Provision Extension through the 2025-2026 fiscal year. As anticipated, due to the transition from the El Camino Community College District, Compton College has experienced a decline in student enrollment. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated our enrollment in 2020-2021. During the past three years, Compton College has worked to transform our institution through the on-going implementation of recommendations from the California Community Colleges’ *Vision for Success*.

Compton College’s enrollment data is as follows:

- 2018-2019 academic year, Compton College generated 4,494.19 FTES.
- 2019-2020 academic year, Compton College generated 4,316.81 FTES.
- 2020-2021 academic year, Compton College anticipates generating 3,196 FTES.
- 2021-2022 academic year, Compton College anticipates generating 4,514 FTES.

If Compton CCD is not granted an extension of the FTES Hold Harmless Provision, we will have to explore financial reductions in future years. Financial reductions will impact our enrollment efforts, our ability to fully complete the transition as an independent college, and limit the many

activities associated with our implementation of the California Community Colleges' *Vision for Success*.

I would like to provide a recap of the college's history for clarification. As you may know, in June 2006, the former Compton Community College's accreditation was revoked by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). At that time, the college ceased to exist.

A partnership with El Camino Community College District was formed, and the El Camino College Compton Center was established to serve the diverse communities within the Compton CCD. In March 2015, the ACCJC granted accreditation eligibility status to the Compton Center. In January 2017, El Camino College submitted a Self-Evaluation Report for the Compton Center to the ACCJC for candidacy status. In February 2017, the governing authority of the Compton CCD Board of Trustees was restored. In March 2017, an ACCJC external evaluation team reviewed the Compton Center Self-Evaluation Report and conducted a site visit of the Compton Center. At the ACCJC meeting on June 7, 2017, the Compton Center was granted initial accreditation status. That action established Compton College as an accredited college under the authority of El Camino Community College District.

On August 27, 2018, Compton College received notification from the ACCJC that our Substantive Change Application: Change in Local Control was approved. On August 29, 2018, California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley issued Executive Order 2018-01, declaring Compton College would operate as an independent college under the authority of the Compton CCD Board of Trustees effective June 7, 2019, at 11:59 p.m.

The following is a recap of the Compton CCD's current financial situation. Assembly Bill 318 appropriated \$30 million to the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges as an emergency apportionment to finance, among other things, activities described in Article 5 of Chapter 5, Part 46 of the Education Code for Compton CCD. As of June 30, 2020, Compton CCD has an outstanding balance of \$7,794,389, including interest for the emergency apportionment. Compton CCD anticipates making the final payment to the California Department of Finance in the 2028-2029 year. Additionally, Compton CCD has a net pension liability of \$39,721,437 as of June 30, 2020, and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability of \$10,061,989.

Compton CCD has a plan for payment of the emergency apportionment balance, pension liability, and OPEB liability. An extension of Compton CCD's FTES Hold Harmless Provision will greatly mitigate enrollment concerns, assist with the implementation of the California Community Colleges' *Vision for Success*, as address long-term fiscal liabilities. However, if the FTES Hold Harmless Provision is not extended, we will have to explore financial reductions during future years. The request for an extension of our FTES Hold Harmless Provision will ensure Compton College has the resources necessary to effectively serve our diverse student population as an accredited college within the Compton CCD and post COVID-19.

In conclusion, we respectfully request an extension of Compton CCD FTES Hold Harmless Provision from 2025-2026 to 2028-2029. If you have any questions, regarding the Compton CCD FTES Hold Harmless Provision Extension Request or Compton College enrollment, please contact me at 310-900-1600, ext. 2000 or via email at kcurry@compton.edu.

Sincerely,

Keith Curry
President/CEO

- c. Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins
 - Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
 - Senator Connie Leyva, Chair, Senate Education
 - Senator John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance
 - Senator Lena A. Gonzalez
 - Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
 - Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
 - Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance
 - Assemblymember Jose Medina, Chair, Assembly Education
 - Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
 - Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1
 - Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
 - Kimberly Rodriguez, Policy Director, Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins
 - Megan Baier, Education Policy Consultant, Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins
 - Anita Lee, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
 - Monica Henestroza, Principal Consultant, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
 - Mark Martin, Senior Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
 - Dr. Lande Ajose, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
 - Chris Ferguson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
 - Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges
 - Lizette Navarette, Vice Chancellor, Finance, Facilities, and Planning, California Community Colleges
 - Compton Community College District Board of Trustees