May 3, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Higher Education continues to be one of the top priorities of the Republican Caucus. On behalf of the members of the Caucus, I am writing to ask for an additional $171 million investment above your January budget proposal for the California State University system. Fully funding the CSU will allow the system to continue historic progress on increasing graduation rates and to provide access to as many students as possible.

The CSU is critical to ensuring access to the college dream for hundreds of thousands of California students, students that come from every ethnic, socioeconomic, and educational background our state has to offer. With more than 480,000 students currently enrolled, the CSU awards almost half of our state’s bachelor’s degrees, and annually graduates more than 100,000 students.

CSU campuses throughout the state are economic engines, and vitally important to their local regions. Five CSU campuses, Fresno, San Jose, Long Beach, Pomona, and Chico, are ranked in the top ten nationwide on the annual Social Mobility Index, for their work in educating more economically disadvantaged students at a lower tuition cost, so that they can graduate and obtain good paying jobs (CollegeNET). We must ensure that the CSU has the resources necessary to produce the educated workforce that California’s employers need.

The CSU system represents the best our state has to offer, providing opportunity and economic independence to countless Californians. The members of the Republican Caucus believe that investing an additional $171 million in the CSU is a chief budget priority and should be included in the final 2018-19 state budget agreement.

Sincerely,

Brian Dahle,
Assembly Republican Leader

Catharine Baker,
Vice Chair Assembly Higher Education Committee

CC: Speaker Anthony Rendon
    Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins
    Assembly Budget Chair Phil Ting
    Senate Budget Chair Holly Mitchell