



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Michael Lemus 916-206-1285**  
**Michael.lemus@csac.ca.gov**

### **California Student Aid Commission Announces Vote in Support of Proposition 16**

*Commission remains committed to tapping into the full scope of California's talent and diversity*

SACRAMENTO, Calif., July 23, 2020 – The California Student Aid Commission today endorsed Proposition 16, a state constitutional amendment for voter consideration on the November ballot that would repeal Proposition 209 and the existing ban on the consideration of race, sex and ethnicity in public education, public employment and public contracting.

The unanimous vote from commissioners representing various institutions, organizations, and non-profits highlights the need to help address inequities in educational opportunity. Reinstating affirmative action will help reinforce the critical role the Commission plays in helping underrepresented students access higher education.

“The mission of the California Student Aid Commission to make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians can only be realized if we who serve students approach our work through an equitable lens,” said Commission Chair Catalina Cifuentes. “Our vote to support Proposition 16 emphasizes our commitment in making college opportunity available for California’s students, especially those from marginalized communities.”

“This vote makes it clear that the Commission understands how Proposition 16 would further the critical work we undertake in helping California tap into the full scope of our state’s talent and diversity,” said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission. “Our students represent many different backgrounds and deserve to see themselves represented in all arenas.”

The Commission joins a large coalition of supporters for Proposition 16, including dozens of education advocates, civic leaders, and many others. Please visit [www.voteyesonprop16.org](http://www.voteyesonprop16.org) for more information.

P. O. Box 419026 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026 (916) 206-1285 [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

*The California Student Aid Commission serves to educate, inform, and support students, their educational institutions, and the professionals who assist them. Please visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on [Twitter @castudentaid](https://twitter.com/castudentaid).*