



## Senate Education Committee

Connie Leyva, Chair

April 3, 2019

Sacramento, California

**Senate Bill 3, Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance  
Testimony of Taylor Myers  
Policy & Research Analyst, California Competes**

Good morning, Chair Leyva and members of the Committee. My name is Taylor Myers, and I am the Policy & Research Analyst for California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy. We are an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit project that has long supported greater oversight and coordination in higher education to promote student success.

I am here today in support of Senate Bill 3, introduced by Senators Allen and Glazer, which would establish the Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance. The state faces critical postsecondary challenges including rising costs, capacity constraints, and inequitable outcomes. No segment or governing body is charged with addressing these challenges in whole. Now, more than at any other time since the Master Plan for Higher Education was chartered, the state needs expert leadership to support equitable college access and completion for all Californians.

While the segments have made important efforts to address challenges in higher education such as affordability, access, and time-to-degree, fundamentally, these are systemic problems that transcend any one institution or segment, and they require systemic solutions. The Office established by SB 3 could take a statewide approach to addressing issues such as institutional capacity and supporting cross-sector initiatives such as dual enrollment and transfer programs.

Specifically, SB 3 creates the infrastructure to develop statewide higher education goals; to oversee interagency efforts; and to promote evidence-based policymaking by using data across education and workforce sectors. Further, SB 3 carefully thinks through the appropriate roles of

key stakeholders, creating an advisory board with student and segment representatives. These functions will improve outcomes across diverse regions and student populations.

California's higher education system requires coordinated leadership and data-driven decision-making that centers on the needs of students. For these reasons, we strongly support SB 3, and we respectfully ask for an AYE vote.