



Date: May 29, 2009

To: Members, California State Senate

From: Michele Pielsticker, Vice President and General Counsel
California Taxpayers' Association

Subject: Cal-Tax SUPPORT for SB 218, as amended May 28, 2009

The California Taxpayers' Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association that opposes unnecessary taxes and promotes government efficiency. Cal-Tax is in support of SB 218, which would expand the reach of the California Public Records Act to include certain organizations and auxiliaries of the California Community Colleges, California State University and University of California systems.

SB 218 would create transparency regarding how nonprofits that are closely affiliated with and provide funding to postsecondary educational institutions spend their dollars. By some estimates, these organizations provide as much as 20 percent of the funding for these postsecondary institutions that also receive general fund monies. If any of this funding is going toward administrative excess, while student fees are rising, the public should have a right to be informed about it. Subjecting postsecondary nonprofits to greater scrutiny under the Public Records Act would hold these organizations and the institutions they fund accountable to taxpayers who are suffering as a result of massive tax increases and budget cuts necessary to close the deficit.

For the foregoing reasons, we support this legislation.

Cc: The Honorable Leland Yee, Room 4074