



June 2, 2023

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President Pro Tem of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: 2023-2024 Budget Package: Preserve \$500M Golden State Pathways Program

Dear Senator Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you and your colleagues on the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees on Education to **PRESERVE the state's \$500M investment in the Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP)**. We strongly encourage you to maintain full funding of the program for 2023-24, as Governor Newsom proposed, and reverse the 80% cut in the initial Senate and Assembly budget proposal.

As groups representing California's employers, we believe GSPP is an important investment in California's economy and future workforce. The proposed 80% cut would decimate the program, starving California's economy of potential well-trained future workers, and harming the economic prospects of a generation of students—especially low-income students of color.

GSPP was created in the 2022-2023 budget as a \$500M one-time Proposition 98 General Fund appropriation to better prepare California's high school students for success in college and career. The program provides funding for high schools to create an integrated program of academics, the opportunity to complete at least twelve units of college credit through dual enrollment, career-technical education, work-based learning experiences, and comprehensive counseling services. GSPP explicitly prioritizes student pathways in high-wage, high-skill, and high-growth industries to have the greatest economic impact on the state.

The [evidence](#) is clear: these pathways benefit low-income students of color by improving graduation rates and access to A-G coursework and dual enrollment. Students who participate in these pathways transition to and persist in postsecondary education at higher rates than their peers. These pathways provide a tremendous benefit to students in becoming ready for college and a career.

Today, our state faces unprecedented education and workforce challenges. As students emerge from the pandemic, they have endured severe learning loss, disengagement, and burnout. [High school graduation rates](#) are down. [Community college](#) and [four-year college enrollment](#) rates are simultaneously declining, all while California businesses struggle to find qualified talent and Californians face challenges finding good jobs.

To address these challenges and ensure California has the skilled and educated workforce needed for the state's economy to thrive, California must stay the course in this moment to prepare young people for postsecondary success by blending college and career preparation.



Rigorous workforce training and pathway programs such as GSPP can provide a significant return on investment for taxpayer dollars. Our economic future depends on providing the tools for upward mobility and building a highly educated, skilled workforce. GSPP is an efficient way to accomplish these goals and promote economic growth. We encourage the Senate and Assembly to seek budget cuts elsewhere.

We can do this. But first, we must secure critical funding for what we know works—for both California students and businesses across our state. While we understand that there are fiscal challenges, we urge you to protect this golden opportunity and preserve GSPP as planned.

For questions, please contact Spencer Sherman, VP of Strategic Partnerships, Linked Learning Alliance: spencer@linkedlearning.org.

Sincerely,

Anne Stanton
President & CEO
Linked Learning Alliance

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  <p>Alysia Bell President UNITE-LA</p>	  <p>Stephen Cheung CEO & President Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC)</p>	  <p>Stuart Waldman President Valley Industry & Commerce Association</p>



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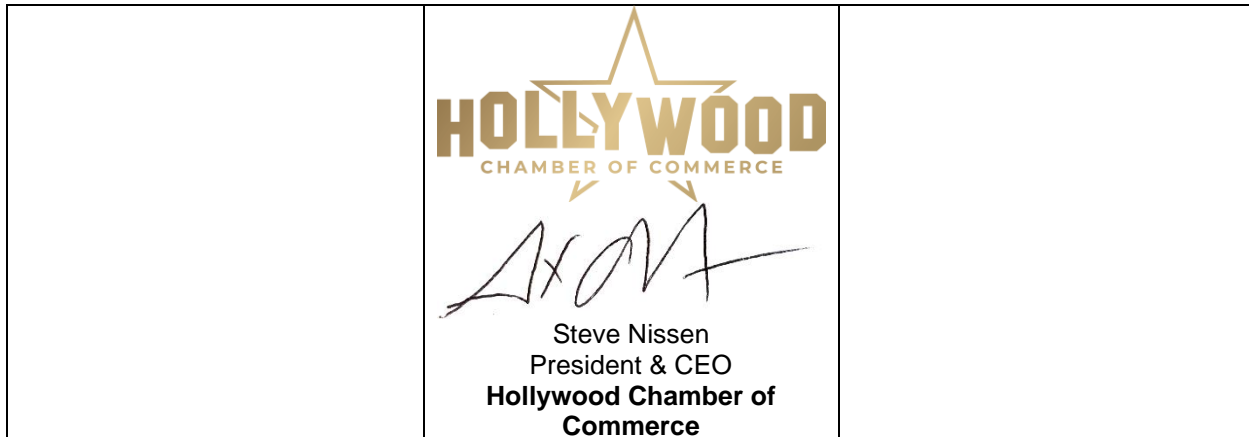
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cc: Members of the Senate Budget Committee
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