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Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 359 (Mitchell), as Amended June 2, 2015**  
**Pending in the Assembly**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Mitchell:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support your bill, SB 359 - the California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015. Under SB 359, governing boards of local educational agencies serving pupils in grade 8 or 9, or both, that do not have a mathematics placement policy as of January 1, 2016, shall develop, adopt in a regularly scheduled public meeting, and implement a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy.

UC agrees with SB 359's contention that a pupil's 9th grade math course placement is a crucial crossroads for his or her future educational success. SB 359 would require that the adopted mathematics placement policy systematically take current academic objective measures into consideration, such as statewide assessments, pupil grades, and diagnostic placement tests, and include a progress checkpoint during the academic year to permit reevaluation of individual pupil progress. Further, pupil placement data would be reviewed annually to ensure that there is no disproportionate impact in the course placement of pupils by race, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background.

UC believes this bill will in fact strengthen the mathematics placement function for these grades, and is happy to support SB 359. This is an important issue for schools and the state to address.

Thank you for your consideration of the University's views. Should you have any questions on the University's position on SB 359, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Leal-Carrillo".

Nadia Leal-Carrillo  
Legislative Director

cc: President Janet Napolitano  
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr  
Executive Vice President & CFO Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez