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April 1, 2025

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 845 (Pérez), Career technical education and apprenticeships - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pérez,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our support for your bill, SB 845, which enhances career technical education (CTE), career education, and apprenticeship opportunities for students across California. This bill makes necessary updates to the state's workforce development programs, streamlining regulatory requirements and expanding access to work-based learning experiences that prepare students for high-demand careers.

SB 845 strengthens career technical education by refining curriculum standards, ensuring alignment with industry needs, and incorporating input from career technical educators and labor representatives. It also improves work-based learning opportunities by broadening the eligibility for school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and state special schools to establish and maintain work experience education programs. These changes will allow more students, including those in grade 10 and above, to earn academic credit for participating in work-based learning activities such as apprenticeships, internships, and mentorships.

Kern County strongly supports initiatives that promote workforce readiness, particularly in our local industries that rely on a skilled labor force. By establishing a system for tracking work-based learning and enhancing partnerships between K-12 schools, community colleges, and apprenticeship programs, SB 845 will create a stronger pipeline from education to employment. These updates will ensure that students are equipped with the skills and experience necessary to succeed in today's economy.

We urge the Legislature's full support of SB 845 and appreciate your leadership in advancing career education and workforce training opportunities for California's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leticia Perez", written over a white background.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange