



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Susan Talamantes Eggman**

DISTRICT 13

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### **\$7 Billion Higher Education Construction Bond Advances in State Assembly**

SACRAMENTO—A \$7 billion Higher Education Construction Bond jointly authored by Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton), Assemblymember Tim Grayson (D-Concord), and Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) was approved today in a bipartisan vote by the Assembly Higher Education Committee. Assembly Bill 2771 would finance projects at the California State University and University of California for student housing, deferred maintenance backlogs, improvements to existing campuses, and the potential development of new campuses.

“Today marks an important step forward to ensure the UC and CSU can meet the growing demands on our higher education system. We know that 31,000 qualified students were turned away from the CSU last year and that we have continuing regional disparities in educational attainment in California,” Eggman said. “This bond will help to address the massive maintenance backlogs, while also providing a path for the construction of new campuses in communities, like mine, that need them.”

The Public Policy Institute of California estimates that by 2030 California will fall more than one million college graduates short of demand in the job market. Despite the need for more college graduates, California is turning away tens of thousands of qualified residents for admission to its four-year universities.

“Today’s committee vote shows a willingness to enable our state colleges and universities to make needed investments in their current facilities so that California’s students continue to get a world-class education at an affordable price. And it allows for the consideration of things like new campuses which will help ensure the CSU and UC systems have the capacity to expand and meet the demands of our increasing population and the needs of the workforce of the future,” said Grayson.

The estimated cost for deferred maintenance projects and to meet student housing need at the CSU is over \$3.2 billion. UC estimates their current need extends greater than \$8 billion. AB 2771 would mark the first time that these segments of our higher education system are included in a statewide bond since 2006 – they were not included in 2016’s Proposition 51.

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