

March 25, 2025

To: House Committee on Higher Education

Re: House Bill 2110

Position: For

Chairman Wilson and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

Good morning. My name is Daisy Donjuan, and I am here today to voice my strong support for House Bill 2110. I am a first-generation college student who transferred to Austin College, a private university here in Texas after completing my associate's degree in paralegal studies at Dallas College. I was proud to advocate two years ago in support of House Bill 8 because – like thousands of students like me – it was my community college that provided access to an affordable, high-quality education and the support I needed to succeed. I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

After high school, I went straight into retail and worked in that field for six years. When the pandemic hit and I lost my job, I realized I needed to find a career that gave me meaning and stability. Because Dallas College invested in me – especially when I had financial troubles – I found that path. I am now the first in my family to attend a four-year university and will graduate next Fall.

Among the many support services I received while at Dallas College, it was a transfer coordinator at Dallas College who met with me one-on-one to create a plan and get where I wanted to go next. Having him in my corner focused on my success – not the college's – made all the difference.

That support matters, and the community college formula now recognizes that by providing funding based on student success—whether that's earning a credential or transferring to a four-year university. However, under the current system, community colleges only receive funding when their students transfer to public universities in the state. Since I transferred to a private university, Dallas College wasn't fully rewarded for prioritizing my success. My community college invested the same faculty, advisors, and resources to prepare me, yet was essentially penalized for my choice.

HB 2110 would fix this by ensuring that community colleges receive the same outcomes funding when their students transfer to any accredited Texas university, public or private. This recognizes the value of community colleges and their role in preparing students for success—no matter where they pursue their bachelor's degree.

I urge you to support HB 2110 to ensure that Texas community colleges continue to receive the funding they deserve for helping students like me achieve their goals. Thank you for your time, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Daisy Donjuan

Member, Texas Community College Student Advisory Council