



MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
JAMES W. DENT EDUCATION CENTER  
1936 Carlotta Drive  
Concord, CA 94519-1397  
Phone (925) 682-8000

Board of Education

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Dr. Arambula  
Chair, Assembly Sub 1 Health and Human Services  
Capitol Room 5155  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: 916-319-2131  
[BudgetSub1@asm.ca.gov](mailto:BudgetSub1@asm.ca.gov)

**Re: Budget Request: Department of Aging, \$5 million one-time-only five-year pilot for the Expansion of the Healthcare Career Pathway, CNA workforce development.**

Dear Dr. Arambula,

Mt Diablo Unified School District board proudly supports this budget request to expand the Healthcare Career Pathway program, to help address the shortage of qualified Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) working in long-term care facilities in California. This proven training program provides critical support for low-income students with addressable barriers as they embark on a career into the allied healthcare field.

MDUSD is proud to have been an early collaborator of this program incubating it at one of our Loma Vista Adult Education Center. Through our evaluation and follow up services we are proud to share that 88% of our students are still working in long-term care settings and more than 60% of our students have expressed interest in continuing their education. We are eager to see this program extended to other communities as we all work together to support students with addressable barriers provide person centered care for some of our most vulnerable seniors.

California's older adult population is growing considerably, outpacing all other age demographics, and will continue to grow until 2060. Older adults living with disabilities are projected to grow even faster than the overall older adult population. The number of older adults living with Alzheimer's disease, is estimated to nearly triple by 2050. These three groups of consumers will likely result in a 75 percent increase in the number of Californians requiring nursing home care by the year 2030.

A five million dollar investment, over the course of the five years, will equip 630 CNAs to provide 1.3 million hours of direct care annually to older and disabled adults in California. These highly

trained CNAs are the first line of care and support for residents of long-term care providing assistance with eating, hygiene, and other important activities of daily living. CNAs are a critical link in the care chain, but often there is a significant shortage of qualified caregivers available and ready to work in long-term care facilities. This was especially evident during COVID-19 where a shortage of CNAs was the difference between life and death for vulnerable seniors who could only look to their caregivers to manage infection protocols and keep this deadly disease outside of the building where they live and receive care.

Mt Diablo Unified School District board respectfully asks for your support of this critically important budget request to provide care and support for older adults and persons with disabilities while providing a path to meaningful employment into the healthcare field for students with addressable barriers.

Sincerely,

Cherise Khaund,  
Board President  
Mt Diablo Unified School District

Adam Clark, Ed.D  
Superintendent  
Mt Diablo Unified School District