

Submitter: Aidan Wei  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

I am an academic advisor who works mainly with first year students and have seen personally how the Strong Start Program aids the transition to college and helps create a solid foundation for the coming academic year. This is especially crucial for first generation students who are not as familiar with college environments, living away from home for the first time, and usually have fewer resources to waste on figuring things out by trial and error. Students who complete the Strong Start Program are less stressed when the term starts, have already built a rapport with support staff (which aids in accessing help faster/earlier), and have an easier time integrating into campus life in general. The program also allows them to strengthen key math and writing skills that their high schools may have been able to provide, as well as make friends within their cohort. This also saves time for administrators down the line so we are more available to serve students in crisis. Strong Start is an investment in first year and underrepresented students that mitigates the need for more reactionary intervention measures throughout the rest of their time at university.