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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

March 20, 2022

RE: DPSFV Supports Assembly Bill 2437 California Pay Our Interns Act.

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support AB 2437, the California Pay Our Interns Act. AB 2437 is a proposed five million dollar fund to grant stipends to low-and middle-income students who participate in uncompensated and Legislative and Executive Branch internships.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss AB 2437 and noted that the California Pay Our Interns Fund will help build a “California for All” by: expanding access to opportunities for students from low-income, marginalized communities, including students who are undocumented, and it will reduce the economic burden on students, resulting in a more productive and valuable internship experience.

Legislative and executive branch internships often open pathways to new career opportunities, especially within public service. Interns can make new connections and learn skills to help them in the next phase of their career. While gaining experience is the main objective of an internship, it does not pay the bills. When accounting for housing, food, professional clothing, and transportation an internship can end up costing students upwards of \$6,000 per semester. Affording an unpaid internship ends up competing with the costs of attending school for many students.

Paying Executive Branch/Legislature interns would empower underserved students to explore new career paths and expand the future pool of public servants to include marginalized communities. For these reasons, DPSFV urges you to support this bill.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley