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Letter of Recommendation:
For Karen Y. Zamarripa
From Senator Marty Block

I have had the opportunity to work with Karen Y. Zamarripa for three decades. Over that time, her performance repeatedly confirms to me that she is one of the most effective advocates in Sacramento and our State Capitol. Karen has tremendous leadership skills, policy knowledge, and political acumen that when coupled with her integrity and remarkable work ethic make her a force to behold and a powerful asset to any organization.

Karen and I have worked together since the 1980's through our respective roles and common goal to ensure that our K-12 schools, colleges and universities offer high quality programs and services that lead to student success for all. As the chair of the education budget subcommittee I have been impressed with her skill at protecting the California State University system during the annual state budget process and credit her with shielding the CSU from even more devastating cuts during the Great Recession.

Even more significantly, Karen's leadership and political strategy led to a final 2015-16 budget which doubled new funding for the CSU system resulting in services for almost 11,000 more students, investment in student success initiatives, faculty and staff. Her *StandwithCSU* campaign made this happen. The campaign was an example of how she brings her strategic abilities, leadership skills, and creative and innovative tactics to serve her clients. Ultimately, her *StandwithCSU* campaign became a movement that no one could resist, and one that I was proud to join, not only as legislator but also as a former CSU administrator.

Karen is someone I can count on and trust. Even during the few times we were not on the same side of a policy issue, she did her work with unquestioned integrity, knew her facts, and worked hard to make her case. We have worked on many issues over the years including a complex and politically charged bill dealing with public records access. Over a two year period, Karen was able to represent the interests of the CSU while also

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working with my team to find a solution that found an appropriate balance. She has a keen sense about what is possible: when it is time to fight, but also how to get to “yes.” And because she is pragmatic and fair, people are more willing to work with her.

Karen is a great leader, a successful and creative strategist, and a knowledgeable policy and budget advocate who gets results. For these and many other reasons, I strongly recommend her to any organization that wants to succeed and make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Block". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARTY BLOCK
Senator, 39th District