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May 6, 2019

The Honorable Marc Berman
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

Subject: AB 302 (Berman, as of 25 March 2019) Parking for Homeless Students on California Community College Campuses
Positon: Support

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is writing to express our support for AB 302 (Berman, as of 25 March 2019), which “would require a community college campus that has parking facilities on campus to grant overnight access to those facilities, on or before July 1, 2020, to any homeless student who is enrolled in coursework, has paid any enrollment fees that have not been waived, and is in good standing with the community college, for the purpose of sleeping in the student’s vehicle overnight” and “would require the governing board of the community college district to determine a plan of action to implement this requirement, as specified.” This position reflects the collective wisdom of the 60,000 faculty of the California Community Colleges system as expressed at our organization’s 2019 Spring Plenary Session through Resolution [6.04 SP19 \(https://www.asccc.org/resolutions/support-ab-302-berman-march252019-and-identify-housing-assistance-representatives\)](https://www.asccc.org/resolutions/support-ab-302-berman-march252019-and-identify-housing-assistance-representatives).

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges’ mission and values are firmly grounded in equity and reflect support for all students in reaching their goals, regardless of their backgrounds. Housing and food insecurity negatively impact the mental and physical health and wellbeing of community college students, especially those who are members of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. A recent study showed that California community college students are increasingly housing insecure, with 1 in 5 students, or roughly 400,000 students in the system, currently being homeless, and that 60 percent of community college students in California have experienced recent housing insecurity and 50 percent have struggled with food insecurity in the last year. This bill, while not a complete solution, would provide some relief to those students suffering from housing insecurity who are seeking to complete their educational goals at our colleges.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 302 (Berman, as of 25 March 2019).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

John Stankas, President

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Cc: Hon. Jose Medina, Chair, and the Assembly Committee on Higher Education
Hon. Steven Choi, Assembly Committee on Higher Education, Vice Chair
Jeanice Warden-Washington, Principal Consultant, Committee on Higher Education
Iiyshaa Youngblood, President, Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Olgalilia Ramirez, Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Mónica Henestroza, Office of Speaker Rendon
Lizette Navarette, Community College League of California
Evan Hawkins, FACCC
Laura Metune, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the California Community Colleges