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September 9, 2021

Honorable Jose Medina, Chair  
Committee on Higher Education  
Room 2141  
P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249

Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) Peace officers: minimum qualifications.

**Position: Oppose unless Amended**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer and Assemblymember Medina:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) is writing to express its reluctant opposition to AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer, as of September 3, 2021). AB 89 would require the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to establish a certification program for specified peace officers, including officers of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, and would require the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a modern policing degree program, with the commission and other stakeholders to serve as advisors, as specified, and to submit a report on recommendations to the legislature outlining a plan to implement the program on or before June 1, 2023.

The ASCCC recognizes that this bill is intended to help minimize the use of deadly force by peace officers by having a law enforcement workforce that is better educated, potentially resulting in improved supervisor evaluation and therefore fewer disciplinary problems and accidents. We commend the author for the bill's forward-thinking in looking for solutions to address this issue.

While we appreciate the intent of the proposed legislation to improve peace officer training, we are concerned with the inclusion of curriculum in the bill language. The ASCCC maintains that mandating the development of the policing degree program in law, given that program creation is a component of curricular design, constitutes an intrusion into local processes that should inherently be driven by faculty. The ASCCC, like all faculty teaching in systems of higher education, emphatically maintains that curricular design is and should be the responsibility and purview of faculty who are experts in their specific disciplines, as is codified in both statute and the California Community Colleges Board of Governors Standing Orders.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges must convey its position of **oppose unless amended** regarding AB 89. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the author regarding the language of the bill in order to enable us to remove our opposition. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

September 9, 2021

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Re: AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) Peace officers: minimum qualifications.

Respectfully,



Dolores Davison

President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

cc:

Assemblymember Steven Choi

Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula

Assemblymember Richard Bloom

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin

Assemblymember Kevin Kiley

Assemblymember Marc Levine

Assemblymember Evan Low

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago

Assemblymember Suzette Martinez Valladares

Assemblymember Akilah Weber

Jeanice Warden-Washington, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Higher Education

Olgalilia Ramirez, Consultant, Senate Committee on Education

David O'Brien, Governmental Relations, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, California Community Colleges  
Chancellor's Office