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April 14, 2015

The Honorable Jose Medina, Chair
Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 798 (Bonilla), as of 4/06/15
Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Medina:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges wishes to express our support for AB 798 (Bonilla), which would establish the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015 in order to reduce costs of college textbooks by encouraging faculty to consider the adoption of open educational resources.

High textbook prices are an increasingly significant barrier to student success, as many students cannot afford and thus do not purchase necessary course materials without which their performance in the corresponding courses is impeded. Open Educational Resources, when reviewed and selected by discipline faculty for their own courses, can in many cases offer appropriate low-cost alternatives to published textbooks for students.

The College Textbook Affordability Act would provide resources for colleges to promote the consideration of Open Educational Resources by faculty but makes provision for local academic senate approval of any program established through these funds. Assemblymember Bonilla and her staff have consulted directly with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges in developing AB 798, and the faculty of the community college system are confident that this bill would benefit students while protecting the integrity and faculty control of the textbook selection process.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 798 (Bonilla). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

David W. Morse
President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Susan Bonilla
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee