

June 20, 2017

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The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Education Committee Chair
State Capitol, Room 5072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 204 (Medina, as of 03/16/17) Support

Dear Senator Allen:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges wishes to express our support for AB 204 (Medina, as of March 16, 2017), which provides additional protections to students who may lose their Board of Governors fee waiver by requiring the California community colleges districts to include in their appeals process a provision that allows for an appeal due to geographical distance hardship. Additionally, the bill requires the Chancellor's Office to review each districts' due process procedures, determine if there is a disproportionate impact on any class of students, and if so, include steps to address the impact in the districts' student equity plans.

The Board of Governors fee waiver provides critical support to California community college students with demonstrated financial need. Unfortunately, there are situations when a student's fee waiver is revoked due to a variety of situations. To address extenuating circumstances, all colleges have an appeals process, however, these appeal processes vary widely across the state. Furthermore, students in urban areas who lose their fee waivers at one district have the option of enrolling at another district, applying for a new fee waiver, and continuing their education. This opportunity is not readily available to students in rural areas of the state.

The passage of AB 204 would ensure fairness, consistency, and comparability in district appeals process across the California Community College System by requiring regular review and comment by the Chancellor's Office. Further, in providing geography as a basis for appeal, the bill will assist students in rural areas who do not have the option of attending a nearby college, as students in urban areas are currently able to do. Finally, and most importantly, the passage of this bill will require districts to address disproportionate impacts in implementation of their appeals process in the districts' student equity plans, should such impacts exist.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 204 (Medina, as of March 16, 2017). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Julie Bruno

President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Jose Medina
Members, Senate Education Committee