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June 23, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1705 (Irwin) Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012: matriculation: assessment

**Position: Oppose**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), we respectfully oppose AB 1705 (Irwin), which would require that students, with few exceptions, are placed and enrolled in transfer-level English and mathematics, even when those courses are not required for the student's educational programs.

ASCCC is designated through statute and regulation as the representative of the more than 58,000 full-time and part-time faculty in the California Community Colleges system regarding curriculum, instruction, and academic and professional matters. As such, ASCCC has engaged with Assemblymember Irwin on a number of concerns related to the implementation of AB 1705 in its current form. While the ASCCC appreciates the opportunity for continued dialogue with the Assemblymember and her staff, the issue of funding has yet to be addressed in a manner sufficient to support long-term faculty and college implementation needs.

Faculty efforts to support student success following placement and enrollment into transfer-level mathematics and English have been admirable, but challenges remain. Colleges with the most success implementing AB 705 have significant faculty support. This support, however, is inconsistent among colleges, resulting in uneven implementation and inequitable results. **On-going funding is needed to support teaching with the increased diverse learning needs of students resulting from this reform.** In order for faculty to design and deliver curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of the broad range of students' preparation in their classes, faculty need more contact and interaction with students. To achieve this purpose, the following are essential:

- a. Lower student-to-faculty ratios with additional class assistance such as course assigned professional instructional aids and tutors. This requires on-going funding to support the increased instructional costs resulting from lower student-to-faculty ratios.
- b. Professional development: bring faculty together to evaluate what is working, determine where improvements are needed, and design and implement improvements based on those evaluations to fully meet the needs of students. This may be addressed with one-time funding that can be spent by colleges over a period of up to three years as colleges implement, assess their efforts, and identify additional pedagogical and instructional support needs.
- c. **Amend SEC. 2. Section 78212.5** is added to the Education Code, to read:  
*(e) Consistent with Section 66010.4, community colleges are not prohibited from*

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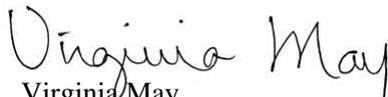
*offering students the opportunity to enroll in any pre-transfer level English or mathematics course based on students' rights to determine their educational goals and academic needs.  
(f) California community colleges shall receive sufficient funding to add support and resources for faculty to implement equitable placement, such as a lower ratio of instructor to students not exceeding 1:10, professional development, embedded faculty tutors in classrooms, and updating the classroom environment to accommodate small groups.*

To this date, we appreciate efforts to amend the bill; however, the senate amendments presented on June 15, 2022 do not provide the changes that are necessary for the ASCCC to be able to remove our opposition to the bill. For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges must continue to oppose AB 1705 (Irwin) unless the bill is further amended. As the practitioners most familiar with curriculum, we would like to continue to work with Assemblymember Irwin's office to help create a bill that best serves students and enables them to reach their self-declared educational goals.

Absent these changes, we respectfully request your **NO** vote on AB 1705.

Should you or your staff have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [MayV@sccc.losrios.edu](mailto:MayV@sccc.losrios.edu), or our legislative advocate, Austin Webster, at [austin@wstrategiesllc.com](mailto:austin@wstrategiesllc.com). We greatly appreciate your consideration on this matter and your ongoing support of the California Community College system.

Sincerely,

  
Virginia May  
President

CC:  
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin