May 5, 2023

The Honorable Mike Fong
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5230
Sacramento, California 95814

— SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Fong:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is pleased to SUPPORT AB 811 (as of April 12, 2023), which would allow local college districts to adopt expanded policies around course repeatability and set new standards for the number of times a student may take a credit course.

California’s community colleges serve a diverse student population from all walks of life. Many of these students face hardships, such as food and housing insecurity, changing employment status, mental health, and longstanding systemic inequities, that impact their ability for success under the current course repetition policies. Adjusting these policies to reflect that reality will lead to improved student outcomes in the long term, rather than forcing students who do not receive a satisfactory grade to seek alternative academic pathways.

In addition, allowing a student to repeat a credit course for which they have secured a satisfactory grade gives them the opportunity for additional enrichment and improved skills that can significantly augment their personal and professional abilities, leading to improved employability and emotional, mental, and physical well-being.

With the recent amendments to address concerns over impacts to a student’s financial aid and other support services, we believe this to be a substantial improvement in our approach to course repeatability at our community colleges and are pleased to SUPPORT this measure. Thank you for authoring this important legislation and for your commitment to our colleges and students.

Sincerely,

Ginni May, President