



August 19, 2021

The Honorable Marc Berman
State Capitol, Room 3123
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support if Amended - AB 928 (Berman) - Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee, as of July 15, 2021

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) is the official voice of the over 2.1 million students in California community colleges (CCC), focused on pursuing policies that improve student access, promote student success, engage, and empower local student leaders, and enrich the collegiate experience for all CCC students. We support AB 928 as of July 15, 2021, if amended to remove the reference to automatic placement on the ADT pathway and to add an additional California community college student to the Intersegmental Implementation Committee.

SSCCC does not support the term “shall place” as it is an automatic placement of students in an ADT pathway and requests language be added to ensure that students will not be automatically placed on an ADT if they declare a goal of transfer. This overlooks many students, specifically place-bound and first-generation students who must stay in their community for a variety of reasons or who may not have family resources to assist them in guiding their educational direction. By automatically placing students on an ADT pathway, these students may be at a serious disadvantage, which would require them to potentially take additional courses if they choose a different route later in their time at CCC such as pursuing a degree at UC or a private institution, as well as if they are placebound and cannot afford to move to another location. Furthermore, while ADTs guarantee a spot at a CSU, it does not guarantee admission at the local CSU or, at times even, in the student’s desired major. Instead, the SSSCCC would suggest that the Intersegmental Committee be charged with creating a plan for how to address all students who declare a goal of transfer, even those desiring to attend UC, which would more effectively lead to successful transfer, as well as moving higher education institutions closer to closing equity gaps.

The SSSCCC would also suggest that an additional California community college student be added to the Intersegmental Committee. As you know, there are 116 California community colleges serving more than 2.1 million students, which is double the student population at both UC and CSU combined. Since transfer directly affects CCC students and not the UC and CSU, it makes sense to have an additional CCC student on the committee.

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As the official organization speaking on behalf of the 2.1 million students, we recognize that there are barriers to transfer to four-year partners. However, we believe that sections of AB 928 (as of July 15, 2021) creates additional barriers for some of our most vulnerable students. We agree that there is a critical need for a committee combined with system stakeholders and public members to examine systemic barriers to transfer and report potential solutions to the Legislature. Unfortunately, AB 928 (Berman), as of July 15, 2021, does not meet these goals. We appreciate the author's efforts to put student needs first and believe we can work together on amendments that would best support students.

For these reasons, the SCCC supports AB 928 (Berman) if amended to incorporate the concerns listed above.

If you have further questions, please contact Vice President of Legislative Affairs Jasmine Prasad at the contact below.

Sincerely,



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cc: Senator Anthony J. Portantino (Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee)
Senator Patricia C. Bates (Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee)
Senator Steven Bradford
Senator Brian W. Jones
Senator Sydney Kamlager
Senator John Laird
Senator Bob Wieckowski