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July 13, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2200
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1705 (Irwin) Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012: matriculation: assessment. – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC), I am writing to respectfully express our opposition of AB 1705 (Irwin). This bill would undermine the community college mission and greatly reduce student agency by placing all students in transfer-level English and most in transfer-level math.

While AB 1705 is being touted as a “clean up” bill for AB 705 (Irwin, 2017), it goes significantly further than AB 705 and overlooks the students who do not have transfer as an educational goal. Many students come to community colleges for career technical education certificates or to earn Associate Degrees. The implementation of AB 1705 will have a detrimental effect on students attending for those purposes as well as part-time students who don’t have the time or ability to take corequisite courses.

There are additional concerns about the technical language in the bill. Colleges do not enroll students, for example, students enroll themselves. We are also worried about the lack of support for faculty. Faculty will need to increase support for students with educational gaps, yet the bill does not provide a way for faculty to develop new pedagogy to better serve those students. Furthermore, the bill doesn’t mention reduced class sizes, which will be necessary to ensure faculty have the time to support all of their students.

I recognize the problems with automatically placing students in remedial courses; however, some students may want to take those courses and they should have that option. Remedial courses act as a safety net for students who are initially unable to succeed in accelerated courses. I support increasing transfer rates for students who want to transfer; however, I cannot support robbing students of their own agency. This undermines the community college mission and will harm our students.

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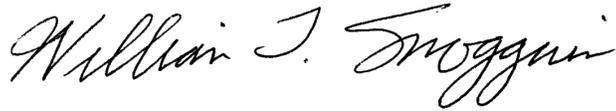
Dr. Manuel Baca • Jay F. Chen • Judy Chen Haggerty, Esq.
Gary Chow • Robert F. Hidalgo • Peter Hidalgo • Laura L. Santos

COLLEGE PRESIDENT / CEO – Dr. William T. Scroggins



For the reasons above reasons, Mt. SAC opposes AB 1705 (Irwin). Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our Policy Advisor Ashley Walker at 916-442-8888 or awalker@nossaman.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Scroggins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William T. Scroggins, Ph.D.
President/CEO