



June 12, 2024

The Honorable Josh Newman, Chair
Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 1818 (Jackson), As Amended on May 16, 2024

Position: Oppose

Dear Senator Newman:

On behalf of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), I am writing to respectfully express our opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 1818 (Jackson), which is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

AB 1818 would require the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and the California State University Chancellor's Office to each establish a pilot program to allow overnight parking on campuses by eligible students. For the California Community Colleges pilot program, the bill would require the CCCCCO to determine a plan for implementing the pilot and to choose 20 campuses to participate in the program. While we are grateful that the bill has been amended into a pilot program, we are concerned that the bill would still require those chosen campuses to allow overnight parking on campus by eligible students.

While we appreciate the bill's intent to provide support to one of our most vulnerable student populations, AB 1818 does not fix the real housing and affordability challenges that our students face. Our colleges are already launching programs to assist unhoused students, and the mandate under this pilot does not make sense for the diverse community college system and would result in significant incurred costs and increased liability implications.

We believe a safer and more feasible approach is for the state to invest more funding into the Affordable Student Housing Construction Grant Program. While we understand that the current State Budget deficit may not allow for another investment into the program this year, we believe a more prudent approach in the short term is for the Legislature to work with the Newsom Administration on approving a statewide lease revenue bond or other statewide financing or fiscal approach to support affordable student housing projects.

ACCCA opposes AB 1818 because it is not a feasible solution for our unhoused students, would increase liability for community college districts, and would create a new costly mandate while our districts are already facing tightening budgets and increased operating costs. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose AB 1818 and urge committee members to vote "no" on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan K. Bray', is written over a printed name and title.

Susan K. Bray
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Corey Jackson
Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.
Kyle Hyland, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.