



June 12, 2024

The Honorable Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2193 (Holden), As Amended on May 16, 2024

Position: Oppose

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), I am writing to respectfully oppose Assembly Bill (AB) 2193 (Holden), which is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. AB 2193 would establish civil liability against an educational institution for an instance of hazing if that educational institution has direct involvement in, knew, or should have known of, the dangerous hazing practices of an affiliated organization.

ACCCA emphatically opposes hazing and strongly endorses the needed implementation of practices that prevent hazing and protect students from this horrendous act. However, we believe that the inclusion of community colleges in this bill is misplaced as our institutions do not have a Greek system, our students rarely remain on campus outside of attending class, and we do not have a history of hazing incidents.

Despite no real history of hazing in our system, AB 2193 would still open community colleges up to costly litigation by including the ambiguous “should have known” language in the bill. This language creates an unreasonable expectation for colleges to have micro-level involvement within student organizations, which further opens colleges up to costly liability.

We strongly believe that unless it can be proven that an institution was grossly negligent in preventing a hazing incident, it is unfair to open them up to costly liability for events that are beyond their control. Furthermore, the current version of AB 2193 will result in significant costs for educational institutions to settle lawsuits, which are Proposition 98 dollars that should be used on students and staff.

ACCCA supports Assemblymember Holden’s goal to prevent future hazing incidences at educational institutions. However, as currently written, this bill would create a costly mandate for educational institutions, which are facing tightened budgets and increased cost pressures all while the state economy is softening. For these reasons, ACCCA opposes AB 2193 and respectfully asks the committee members to vote “no” on this measure.

Sincerely,


Susan K. Bray
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Chris Holden
Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.
Kyle Hyland, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.