



September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Veto on AB 2277 (Wallis)

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), I am writing to respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill (AB) 2277 (Wallis). This bill would change the percentage of the full-time equivalent load to the range of 80% to 85%, for any new agreement, or upon expiration of any negotiated agreement in effect on January 1, 2025.

ACCCA has opposed previous iterations of this bill and, while we are grateful for the new language that requires all part-time, temporary faculty assignments be less than 30 hours per week to prevent triggering full-time healthcare benefits under the Affordable Care Act, we must still oppose this bill.

ACCCA holds steadfast to the principle that local control is fundamental in establishing and operating sound programs for students and creating an infrastructure that supports all community college employees. AB 2277 would infringe upon the local authority of community college districts to collectively bargain their own paid leave provisions at the district level.

Some districts and their employee groups have already bargained and opted to provide this benefit, while others have jointly determined that it is not the best use of financial resources of the district and have made other employee compensation decisions as a result. This bill would restrict the flexibility that community college districts need to ensure that all their employees have adequate benefits for a variety of scenarios beyond the scope of what is in this legislation.

You vetoed two previous iterations of this bill in 2021 and 2022. We believe that your veto messages from those other two versions still hold. In 2021, you said that the bill “would create significant ongoing cost pressures on the state and community college districts, potentially in the hundreds of millions of dollars.” In 2022, you called the measure premature since we have yet to see the effect of the \$200 million ongoing investment for the Part-Time Faculty Health Insurance Program that was included as a part of the 2022-23 Enacted Budget.

The Chancellor’s Office estimates that this bill could result in up to \$274.3 million in ongoing Proposition 98 costs each year for community college districts to offer health insurance benefits to part-time faculty. Additionally, we have only had two fiscal years with the influx of funding for the Part-Time Faculty Healthy Insurance Program and still need more time to see the impact of the investment and whether districts are using the program.

We strongly believe in your consistency over the last couple of years in vetoing bills that would have resulted in significant state and local costs that were not accounted for in the Enacted State Budget. With state revenues softening over the past two State Budget cycles, we believe that you should again exercise a prudent approach in what bills to sign into law and once again veto any measures with significant costs, such as AB 2277.

For these reasons, ACCCA respectfully requests that you veto AB 2277.

Sincerely,



Susan K. Bray
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Greg Wallis
Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.
Kyle Hyland, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.