

June 14, 2024

Via: Electronic Submittal: <u>https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/</u>

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

Re: AB 2277 (Wallis), As Amended on March 6, 2024

Position: Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Fong:

On behalf of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), I am writing to respectfully oppose Assembly Bill (AB) 2277. 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 of their employees have adequate benefits for a variety of scenarios beyond the scope of what is in this legislation.

As currently written, this bill would create a new costly mandate while districts are facing tightened budgets and increased cost pressures all while state revenues underperform. For these reasons, ACCCA must respectfully oppose AB 2277 and ask committee members to vote "no" on this measure.

Sincerely,

usan K Bray

Executive Director

Members, Senate Education Committee
 The Honorable Greg Wallis
 Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.
 Kyle Hyland, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.