



April 10, 2023

The Honorable Mike Fong, Chair  
Assembly Higher Education Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 358 (Addis), As Introduced on February 1, 2023**

**Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Fong:

On behalf of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), I am writing in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 358 (Addis), which is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

AB 358 would exempt community college district student housing architectural plans from the requirement to receive approval from the Department of General Services' (DGS) Division of State Architect (DSA), creating parity with California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) campus housing. Projects will still abide by local and state building standards, providing safe living environments for community college students.

Community colleges are subject to the same building standards as primary and secondary schools. However, this has the unintended consequence of long bureaucratic construction procedures, a problem that uniquely exists at the California Community Colleges (CCC) system and not at the CSU or UC. For example, building projects that exceed \$100,000 are required to go through the DGS and DSA in addition to housing compliance standards, which results in increased housing costs. This creates barriers to building safe and affordable housing. In 2021, the State of California granted an exception to buildings used or intended to be used as residential housing for faculty or other employees and their families (AB 306, O'Donnell, Ch. 49, Stats. 2021).

AB 358 would extend the provisions of this law to allow student housing architectural plans to accelerate the building process. This bill seeks to replicate past legislation that has authorized exceptions for faculty or other employees and their families. The ability to bypass approval from the DGS and DSA on residential housing for CCC students allows community colleges to more easily accommodate its housing needs. This will put the CCC on an equal footing with CSU and UC colleges across the state and help students with housing insecurity.

For these reasons, ACCCA supports AB 358 and respectfully asks the committee members to vote "aye" on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan K. Bray', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Susan K. Bray  
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
The Honorable Dawn Addis  
Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.