

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair Senate Education Committee 1021 O Street, Room 6740 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 90 (Jackson): Public postsecondary education: overnight student parking. Position: **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Pérez,

On behalf of the following organizations and colleges, we write in respectful opposition to Assembly Bill 90 by Assemblymember Jackson, which mandates locally elected community college governing boards to annually take a vote on converting campus parking lots into sleeping quarters for homeless students.

In 2023, the RealCollege Survey conducted by the Community College League of California's Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce revealed that many of our students face housing insecurity or homelessness. The resulting report concluded with a set of policy recommendations for lawmakers to consider, including proposals to expand and invest in student housing initiatives, increase coordination with local counties, strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations, identify and support student groups with disproportionally high basic needs insecurities, and equitably increase student access to state and federal financial aid. Unfortunately, AB 90 ignores these comprehensive recommendations and instead offers a remedy that doesn't address the root issue and potentially harms other remedies colleges are enacting.

Implementing AB 90 poses significant challenges. Homeless students deserve a safe, clean, and dignified place to sleep at night. According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, implementing safe parking lots would result in **ongoing costs of \$623,000 per campus.** This encompasses costs related to student safety and security, student verification processes, sanitation and custodial services, restroom availability, liability insurance, and reporting requirements. As the lowest-funded education system in California, community colleges do not have the resources available to establish safe parking lot programs without making significant cuts elsewhere.

Many community colleges provide temporary housing support to students through hotel or Airbnb vouchers, direct aid via emergency housing grants, rental subsidies, rapid rehousing, partnerships with local non-profit organizations, and referrals to transitional housing. If AB 90 is enacted, these existing programs would be at risk of being cut, as colleges would be forced to make difficult decisions on beginning new programs without adequate funding.

Unfortunately, AB 90 does not fix the real housing and affordability challenges our students face. We urge policymakers to consider long-term solutions, such as investments in permanent housing and financial aid. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose AB 90 by Assemblymember Jackson.

Sincerely,

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