



June 14, 2024

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

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

Re: SB 895 (Roth), As Amended on May 16, 2024

Position: Support

Dear Assemblymember Fong:

On behalf of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 895 (Roth, D-Riverside), which would address California's nursing shortage by authorizing 15 community college districts to award Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees.

California is suffering from a shortage of registered nurses (RNs). In 2018, more than 85% of hospitals in California reported that the demand for RNs was greater than the available supply—a public health crisis that has not improved and has instead been exacerbated by the global pandemic.

Historically, the community college associate degree in nursing (ADN) has been the basic credential requirement for employment as an RN in a healthcare facility and four-year institutions have traditionally awarded the BSN degree. However, the healthcare workforce requirements are changing, and hospitals are increasingly preferring and requiring a BSN degree. According to a 2021 Health Impact report, 18% of California hospitals surveyed stated that a BSN was required for employment—twice the percentage noted in 2017—and 54.3% of hospitals reported a preference for hiring nurses with BSN degrees.

SB 895 bridges the nursing gap in the state by utilizing existing ADN programs at community colleges to address the lack of capacity in public, four-year nursing schools. With the difference between an ADN and a BSN being only an additional 30 units of upper-division, major coursework, several ADN programs are well positioned to expand their offerings to BSN degrees. SB 895 establishes a sustainable and cost-neutral path forward for community colleges to meet the community and workforce demand for more nurses.

For these reasons, ACCCA supports SB 895 and respectfully asks for an “aye” vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan K. Bray', is written over a white background.

Susan K. Bray
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
The Honorable Richard Roth
Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.
Kyle Hyland, Legislative Advocate, School Services of California Inc.