

Aug 16, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Office of the Governor
c/o of the State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: AB 2766 (Lopez)
POSITION: Strong Support

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of Region V of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, we would like to highlight our support for AB 2766 (Lopez).

AB 2766 enacts the expansion of the California Student Aid Commission to facilitate the creation of two more commissioners onto the board to ensure proper student representation for each postsecondary educational system in the state, whom are qualified, and meet all of the requirements as prescribed by California Education Code sections 69510 through 69519.

The California Student Aid Commission was established in 1955 as the principal state agency responsible for administering financial aid programs for students attending public and private universities, colleges, and vocational schools in California. They provide policy analysis and leadership in regards to financial aid with the mission to make education, beyond secondary school, financially acceptable to all Californians. Currently, the Student Aid Commission's composition of fifteen members, ranging from system partners appointed by the Governor and State Legislature of all four post-secondary systems, members of the public, and the California secondary educational system.

Students are the only system partner on this commission that do not have proper or equal representation for all four postsecondary educational systems and feel that it provides an injustice to the pursuit of its mission statement, while leaving deficiencies in the core work that is accomplished by this commission. The demographics of each of our systems is quite diverse from one another, which leaves a heavy burden for two individuals to represent over 3.5 million students from four various, but interconnected systems, leading to key communities being disenfranchised in the process.

Below is the support of our regions 13 community colleges who have signed on to support AB 2766(Lopez) and we strongly urge you to sign this bill into law. For additional information on our stance of support, please contact me at Cheyne.Strawn@studentsenateccc.org.

Respectfully,

Cheyne Strawn
Legislative Affairs Director | Region V
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

College of the Sequoias

Fresno City College

Columbia College

Merced College

Bakersfield College

West Hills College: Coalinga

San Joaquin Delta Community College

Modesto Junior College

West Hills College: Lemoore

Reedley College

Porterville College

Madera Community College Center

Clovis Community College