



**President**  
Julie Bruno  
Sierra College

June 27, 2017

**Vice President**  
John Stankas  
San Bernardino Valley College

The Honorable Benjamin Allen  
Senate Education Committee Chair  
State Capitol Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Secretary**  
Dolores Davison  
Foothill College

**Treasurer**  
John Freitas  
Los Angeles City College

**Subject: AB 705 (Irwin), as of 05/30/17 Position: Oppose Unless Amended**

**Area A Representative**  
Ginni May  
Sacramento City College

Dear Senator Allen:

**Area B Representative**  
Conan McKay  
Mendocino College

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is writing to express our reluctant opposition to AB 705 (Irwin, as of May 30, 2017). While we recognize the role of innovation and the importance of multiple measures for accurate placement of students, the current language of AB 705 seriously limits the ability of the colleges to recognize and respond to the needs of the diverse student populations we serve. The selection of appropriate multiple measures is dependent on the circumstance and life experience of each student. AB 705 limits the ability of colleges to select the most appropriate measures to best reflect the needs of the individual student by subjecting all students to the same measures. For example, older adults who comprise a significant population of students served by the California community colleges and have been out of public education for a decade or more are not well served by using high school data as a measure of potential success. Advisement to ascertain student motivation, prior military experience, and guided self-assessment may be better predictors of the ability for an older adult to succeed in the college’s curriculum.

**Area C Representative**  
Rebecca Eikay  
College of the Canyons

**Area D Representative**  
Craig Rutan  
Santiago Canyon College

**North Representative**  
Cheryl Aschenbach  
Lassen College

**North Representative**  
Carrie Roberson  
Butte College

**South Representative**  
Randy Beach  
Southwestern College

**South Representative**  
Lorraine Slattery-Farrell  
Mt. San Jacinto College

**Representative at Large**  
Sam Foster  
Fullerton College

**Representative at Large**  
LaTonya Parker  
Moreno Valley College

In addition, the current language of requiring the attainment of “transfer-level” does not recognize the various goals of students who may not wish to transfer but instead seek to earn an associate’s degree and enter the workforce. The California community colleges exist to serve not only the needs of transfer students but also to respond to regional industry needs at the associate’s degree level. The current language, again, presumes all students have the same educational goals. As a specific example, college-level mathematics can fulfill the requirements for associate’s degrees in career technical education fields with courses such as algebra or geometry that is most appropriate to fields such as architectural drafting or electronics. Attempting to steer these students toward a transfer-level mathematics course is a disservice to those students and the value of their goals and role in California’s economy.

**Julie Adams, Ph. D.**  
Executive Director

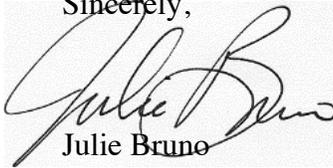
The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges asks that the bill be amended to remove the specific focus on transfer level coursework and, while still encouraging the use of multiple measures, to insert language that would give each college the flexibility to employ its placement processes in the ways most

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appropriate to its specific student population and to individual student needs. Were such amendments adopted, we would be happy to remove our opposition.

**For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges opposes unless amended Assembly Bill 705 (Irwin, as of May 30, 2017).** We would be willing and happy to consult with the bill's author to develop amendments that would ensure the ability of our colleges to best serve the needs of all of students as individuals with unique abilities and needs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Bruno", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Julie Bruno

President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin  
Members, Senate Education Committee