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February 9, 2022

Members of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education  
1020 N Street, Room 173  
Sacramento, California 95814

Members of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs  
1020 N Street, Room 389  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Irwin  
State Capitol, Room 5119  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: AB 1606 (Irwin) Public postsecondary education: veterans: waiver of mandatory systemwide tuition and fees.

**Position: Support**

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education, Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, and Assemblymember Irwin,

On February 5, 2022, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), the organization designated through statute and state regulation as the representative of all 58,000 full-time and part-time faculty in the California Community Colleges system regarding academic and professional matters, voted to support AB 1606 (Irwin) as of February 5, 2022. This bill would expand the provisions of The Donahoe Higher Education Act that prohibit campuses from charging mandatory systemwide tuition or fees to specified students who apply for a waiver, including a child of any veteran of the United States military who has a service-connected disability, has been killed in service, or has died of a service-connected disability, by additionally including the spouse or unmarried surviving spouse of any veteran of the United States military under the same conditions. The bill would also include changes to provisions relating to this waiver of mandatory systemwide tuition and fees and would repeal the prohibition of a dependent of a veteran from receiving these educational benefits during the time the dependent is entitled to receive specified federal educational benefits or duplicative assistance from any other government source.

California's community colleges have great respect for the service of veterans. Many former and present service members are students in the community college system. Veteran Resource Centers are common on community college campuses, and several colleges have direct associations and instructional agreements with military bases in the state. The ASCCC has demonstrated its support for veterans through resolutions passed at the organization's bi-annual plenary sessions such as Resolution 7.05 in Spring 2017: "Chancellor's Office Support for Veterans Resource Centers," Resolution 20.01 in Spring 2009: "Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, Veterans and Financial Aid," and Resolution 18.04 in Spring 2011: "Academic Credit for Veterans and Military Service Members." Support for the veteran community is something in which we believe strongly.

The ASCCC also has long supported reducing the cost of college for all students, as seen through publications such as the article "[Cal Grant Modernization and the True Cost of College](#)" in the April 2021 issue of our quarterly *Rostrum* and through actions such as Resolution 6.01 in Spring 2016: "Support Legislation to Increase Cal Grant Awards" and Resolution 6.01 in Spring 2011: "Community College Fees."

February 16, 2022

Re: AB 1606 (Irwin) Public postsecondary education: veterans: waiver of mandatory systemwide tuition and fees.

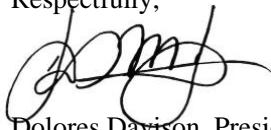
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AB 1606 would extend the opportunities already available to veterans and their children to broader group of veterans' family members. As such, it would offer these benefits to a large group of deserving individuals, showing appreciation for the service of their family members and reducing the cost of college for this important group of potential students.

For these reasons, the ASCCC wishes to express its **position of support** for AB 1606 (Irwin) as of February 5, 2022.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dolores Davison', written in a cursive style.

Dolores Davison, President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges