



September 14, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1291 (McCarty) - **OPPOSED**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the University of California Student Association and the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, representing a combined 2 million students, we write to express our **OPPOSITION** regarding Assembly Bill 1291. While we genuinely appreciate the desire to create an equitable transfer pathway for community college students seeking to transfer to a UC campus, we are alarmed that AB 1291 was drafted without input from subject matter experts, college practitioners, and us – the students.

As a reminder, both of our organizations either supported or co-sponsored the original version of Assembly Bill 1749, introduced earlier this year, which would have required full adoption of the ADT pathway throughout the UC system. We share your end goal with both of these bills and are grateful for your leadership on this issue. Since its inception in 2010, the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway has resulted in unprecedented increases in the number of transfer-ready community college students, yet pervasive inequities in transfer outcomes based on race, region, and income remain. Only one in four students who start at a community college with a transfer goal successfully transfers

within five years. Multiple transfer pathways are resulting in unnecessary complexities that are delaying baccalaureate degree attainment.

To enhance intersegmental coordination, the Legislature adopted AB 928 (Berman, 2021), which established the ADT Oversight Committee composed of system leaders, faculty, and students from all three public higher education segments to engage in rich conversations regarding the complexities of the transfer process and develop actionable reforms. According to the Committee's recent [draft report](#), California's postsecondary transfer system "remains unnecessarily complex and contains too many contingencies to be considered universally accessible... **(it) must transform in dramatic and meaningful ways.**"

Unfortunately, instead of addressing these contingencies, the pilot ADT admissions program this bill would create does not contain any assurances for students that their hard-earned ADT can be used for admission at a UC or CSU of their choice. Instead of creating one transfer pathway that will result in admission to two university systems, AB 1291 will allow the UC to expand the ADT to only select majors, based on community colleges that may not even be located within their region.

Instead of attempting to pass a hastily drafted and last-minute legislation with no student input, we urge you to veto AB 1291. This will allow for a true conversation to take place this fall with the author's office, representatives of your Administration, community college and UC leaders, and student association leaders from both segments, with the goal of proposing a new language in early 2024 that would create an equitable transfer guarantee for *all* California students. Transfer reforms must be grounded in the expertise and experiences of practitioners, staff, and most importantly, students.

Sincerely,

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