



CONSENT CALENDAR
July 16, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Rigel Robinson, Rashi Kesarwani, and Cheryl Davila
 Subject: Support for AB 302 (Parking for Homeless Community College Students)

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to Senator Skinner, Assemblymember Wicks, and Assemblymember Marc Berman supporting AB 302, which would include in the Education Code a requirement that community colleges provide overnight parking access to any enrolled homeless student, and request expansion of the bill to cover UCs and CSUs.

BACKGROUND

Under the existing Education Code, if a community college has shower facilities for student use, the governing board of the community college district must grant eligible homeless students access to these facilities. Eligible homeless students must be enrolled in coursework, have paid enrollment fees, and be in good standing with the community college district.

This bill adds overnight parking access as another campus facility available for homeless students. Because it imposes additional taxes on community college districts, the state would be required to reimburse local agencies and school districts for the state-mandated costs.

In an overview of basic needs insecurity in California's public higher education system, it was found that housing takes up 43% of a community college student's budget and 30% of those students are solely responsible for their housing costs.¹ In the last year alone, 19% of community college students reported experiencing homelessness.² At Berkeley City College, 32.4% of students reported homelessness.³

To cope with this housing problem, many students are forced to live in their vehicles. This is an issue for the students seeking stability and safety as well as for neighborhood street parking and perceptions of safety. Finally, safe parking lots make it easier to

¹https://www.ccleague.org/sites/default/files/images/college-ready-hungry-and-homeless_assembly_office_of_research.pdf

²<https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/RealCollege-CCCCO-Report.pdf>

³https://www.ccleague.org/sites/default/files/images/college-ready-hungry-and-homeless_assembly_office_of_research.pdf

connect homeless students to services and housing, offering them the opportunity to move out of vehicles and into apartments.⁴

While the long-term solution is to build more housing, AB 302 is a step to ensure that right now homeless students have a safe place to sleep at night. We are also requesting that the bill be amended to extend its provisions to CSU and UC Schools as well, given that housing insecurity is a shared experience among students in higher education.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170
David Lin, Intern

Attachments:

1: Letter of support

5: Bill Text - AB 302

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB3

⁴ <https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-lopez-safe-parking-20171224-story.html>

July 16, 2019

The Honorable Marc Berman
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 302 (Berman) – Parking for Homeless Community College Students

Dear Assemblymember Berman:

The Berkeley City Council would like to convey its full support for AB 302.

In an overview of basic needs insecurity in California's public higher education system, it was found that housing takes up 43% of a community college student's budget and 30% of those students are solely responsible for their housing costs. In the last year alone, 19% of community college students reported experiencing homelessness. At Berkeley City College, 32.4% of students reported homelessness.

To cope with this housing problem, many students are forced to live in their vehicles. This is an issue for the students seeking stability and safety as well as for neighborhood street parking and perceptions of safety. Finally, safe parking lots make it easier to connect homeless students to services and housing, offering them the opportunity to move out of vehicles and into apartments.

While all higher education institutions in the state need to work to provide more student housing, AB 302 is a step to ensure that right now homeless students have a safe place to sleep at night. Housing insecurity is a challenge facing students across all forms of higher education, not just in the Community College System. Given this critical need, we would request that this bill be amended to include students experiencing similar situations at UC and CSU schools as well. Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council
CC: Senator Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

