



Fresno City College • Clovis Community College  
 Madera Community College • Reedley College

June 14, 2024

The Honorable Josh Newman, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 6740  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1818 (Jackson): Public postsecondary education: homeless students: parking**  
**Position: OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Newman,

On behalf of the following organizations and colleges, we respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 1818 by Assemblymember Corey Jackson, which mandates California’s community colleges to open campus parking lots for homeless student sleeping quarters.

While we acknowledge the author’s well-meaning intentions, we are concerned that this approach masks the deeper issue of insufficient resources, such as housing and financial aid for California’s community college students. In 2023, the RealCollege Survey conducted by the Community College League of California’s Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce revealed that almost 3 out of every 5 community college students are housing insecure, and about 1 in 4 students are homeless. The report concluded with a set of policy recommendations, including proposals to advance and expand student housing initiatives and financial aid services. Unfortunately, AB 1818 ignores comprehensive policy suggestions and offers a short-term remedy without addressing the root issue. Homeless students deserve more than temporary parking lot accommodations; they deserve access to stable housing and robust financial assistance.

We are thankful for the Legislature’s demonstrated commitment to supporting students’ basic needs through its prioritization of Cal Grant Reform and the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program. We believe resources would be better utilized towards the implementation of Cal Grant reform and the expansion of housing grants, which are real solutions with proven results. Additionally, there is currently no law prohibiting community college districts from opening parking lots to homeless students. As locally controlled institutions, we believe this should remain a local decision.

Implementing AB 1818 poses significant challenges. Homeless students deserve a safe, clean, and dignified place to sleep at night. According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, implementing this measure would result in **ongoing costs of \$600,000 per campus**. This encompasses costs related to student safety and security, student verification processes, sanitation and custodial services, restroom availability, liability insurance, and reporting requirements. As the lowest-funded education system in California, community colleges do not have the resources available to cover the expenses of converting campus parking lots into safe living quarters.

Unfortunately, AB 1818 does not fix the real housing and affordability challenges our students face. We respectfully urge our state leaders to focus on long-term solutions that address the true challenges students face, not temporary fixes. For these reasons, we must respectfully oppose AB 1818 by Assemblymember Jackson.

Sincerely,

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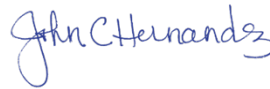
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