

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2881 (Berman)

As Amended August 11, 2022

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC) to provide students with information on the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC), as defined; to grant priority registration to student parents, as defined; and to create a website with resources for student parents.

*Major Provisions*

- 1) Requires, beginning no later than July 1, 2023, each campus of the CSU, and each campus within a community college district, and requests each campus of the UC to offer priority registration to student parents. Encourages the CCC, the CSU, and the UC to utilize data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the California Dream Act Application, the application to receive a fee waiver at the CCC, and any campus form or document that identifies student parents. Student parents for purposes of priority enrollment are defined as a student who has a child or children under the 18 years of age who will receive more than half of their support from the student.
- 2) Requires campuses of the CCC and the CSU Board of Trustees, and requests that the UC Board of Regents provide all incoming students with educational information regarding WIC, the California Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit, including the eligibility requirements, during campus orientation.
- 3) Adds to the information on how to enroll in WIC, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit to the information required to be offered by Basic Needs Centers on CCC and adds WIC, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit information to the list of resources each campus of the CCC and the CSU are required to maintain on the internet website-based student account associated with a student's attendance at the institution. Requests the same of the UC.
- 4) Requires each campus of the CSU and CCC and requests that each campus of the UC do the following:
  - a) Create by February 1, 2023, a student parent internet webpage that is visible and easily accessible from the drop-down menu on the campus webpage;
  - b) Include all the on and off campus student parent resources on both the student parent internet webpage and the internet website-based student account associated with a student's attendance at the institution. Information provided on the on- and off- campus resources will include the description of the service or resource, the location of the service or resource, the point of contact for the service or resource, and any eligibility restrictions on accessing the service or resource;

- i) Requires the website to provide resource information on priority registration for student parents, the CalFresh Program, WIC, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit. Clarifies the information provided on the website is not limited to the information above.
- c) Provide the student parent internet web page link during orientation;
- d) Provide faculty the student parent internet web page link and encourage faculty to include the link on their syllabi; and,
- e) Update the resources listed on the student parent internet web page link by the first day of every fall and spring semester or quarter.

### **Senate Amendments**

Amend the Assembly version of this bill to include:

- 1) Adds information on the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Young Child Tax Credit to CCC student basic needs centers.
- 2) Provides a deadline for the priority enrollment for student parents to be established on CCC and CSU campuses by July 1, 2023. Request the same of the UC. Clarifies the various resources the CCC, CSU, and UC may use to determine their student parent population for purposes of priority enrollment.
- 3) Defines student parent for purposes of priority enrollment as student who has a child or children under the 18 years of age who will receive more than half of their support from the student.
- 4) Adds information on the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Young Child Tax Credit to the information required to be provided by the CCC and CSU during orientation. Requests the UC to do the same.
- 5) Requires the CCC and the CSU to add information on the information on the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Young Child Tax Credit to the internet website-based student account associated with student's attendance. Request the UC to do the same.
- 6) Clarifies the type of on-and off-campus service, which should be included on the student parent website established by the bill, to include the CalFresh Program, WIC, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit.
- 7) Makes minor and technical changes.

### **COMMENTS**

*Student parents in higher education.* In August 2019, the United States Government Accountability Office released the report "More Information Could Help Student Parents Access Additional Federal Student Aid" which found in the 2015-2016 academic year 22 percent of all undergraduates were parents and of those 22 percent, 55 percent were single parents. According to the UC Davis School of Education, data captured from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) and the CA Dream Act Application for the 2018-2019 academic year

found 72% of all student parents intended to enroll at the CCC, 12% intended to enroll at the CSU, and 1% intended to enroll at the UC.

*Priority registration.* The EDC provides priority registration for the following groups of students at both the CCC and the CSU: any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, any member or former member of the State Guard, current and former foster youth, and current and former homeless youth. According to the UC Office of the President, the UC also offers priority registration to those groups of students.

Additionally, the CCC is required in the EDC to offer priority registration to students who participate in Extended Opportunity Programs and Service programs (EOPS), disabled students (DSP), and students who participate in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for kids (CalWORKs) program. Due to the multitude of "priority registration" sub-categories established in Education Code and by community college districts, there are two levels of priority registration at the CCC. In spring 2020 the following groups of students were offered priority registration: 16,000, foster youth or former foster youth; 2,400, current or former homeless youth; 11,000 CalWORKs recipients; 63,000 DSPS students; 70,000 EOPS students; and 34,000 current or former members of the Armed Forces or State Guard.

In addition to the EDC requirements, the CSU provides priority registration at all campuses to California Promise Program Participants. California Title 5 regulations, division 5, chapter 1, subchapter 2, Article 2, Section 40106 stipulates that each campus of the CSU has the authority to grant priority registration to any sub-category of student. For example, at some CSU campuses, dean's list students receive priority registration as do incoming students.

Since UC is constitutionally autonomous, the EDC requests the system to offer priority registration to military personnel, current and former foster youth, and current and former homeless youth. Based on information from the UC Office of the President, each campus determines its own priority registration. Some groups are afforded the benefit of priority registration including foster youth and veterans. Furthermore, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Davis, and UC Santa Barbara all provide priority registration to student parents.

*Please see the policy committee analyses for a full discussion of this bill.*

### **According to the Author**

"The journey to and through college is challenging for many students, but it is even more challenging for student parents as they juggle academic demands while also raising children. The disruption of higher learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic has also brought urgent attention to the needs of student parents, whose challenges are compounded as school and child care interruptions place significant new demands on their time and attention. Research has found that one in five college students are student parents and that student parents are almost twice as likely to leave college without a degree after six years. Among students of color, a higher proportion are parenting while in college: 33 percent of Black students, 30 percent of Native American students, and 21 percent of Latinx students have children."

"Student parents also face greater economic barriers than students without children: over two-thirds of student parents live in or near poverty, and student parents have higher levels of unmet financial need and higher median student debt. As a result, the student parent population deserves particular focus and support. AB 2881 would provide a multifaceted approach to support student parents at the community colleges, California State University, and University of

California by granting priority registration to student parents, establishing a student parent webpage for every campus highlighting available services and resources, and increasing awareness of the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children. This bill would remove barriers that inhibit academic success and degree attainment for student parents, bring greater attention to their needs, and in doing so, uplift their children as well."

### **Arguments in Support**

According to the Education Trust – West, "the journey to and through college is challenging for many students, but it is even more challenging for student parents as they juggle academic demands while also raising children. The Education Trust–West's latest report, Hear My Voice II: Supporting Success for Parenting and Unhoused Women of Color highlights that women of color in the California State University system were already facing many of the same inequities that now threaten the educational futures of many more. This report highlights the voices of students of color and offers a deep dive into women of color's experiences across CSU campuses and offers recommendations to begin addressing inequities and make lasting investments in the future of higher education. AB 2881 (Berman) would remove barriers that inhibit academic success and degree attainment for student parents and brings attention to their needs. Helping student parents reach their educational goals will have a multiplier effect of increasing family income and helping more children succeed in school."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill could result in a mandate for community college districts to comply with the bill's requirements. The Chancellor's Office indicates that the CCCs currently do not have reliable means to identify student parents and in order to grant them priority enrollment, the Chancellor's Office would need to connect FAFSA and California Promise Grant applications to enrollment systems. However, with the bill's extended implementation timeline, these costs could be absorbable.

This bill could also result in the establishment of a Management Information System (MIS) data element to evaluate and report data which could result in local assistance costs of up to \$2.9 million and up to \$49,000 in one-time state operations costs. The Chancellor's Office indicates there could be additional one-time costs of about \$40,000 for implementation guidance, support and monitoring, and changes to Title V regulations.

The UC and CSU indicate that the costs to comply with the bill's requirements are expected to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

## **VOTES:**

### **ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 12-0-0**

**YES:** Medina, Choi, Arambula, Bloom, Gabriel, Irwin, Kiley, Levine, Low, Santiago, Valladares, Akilah Weber

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 16-0-0**

**YES:** Holden, Bigelow, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Megan Dahle, Davies, Mike Fong, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Levine, Quirk, Robert Rivas, Akilah Weber, Wilson

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0-5**

**YES:** Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chen, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Daly, Davies, Flora, Mike Fong, Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Gray, Grayson, Haney, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nguyen, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Seyarto, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Wilson, Wood, Rendon

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Berman, Mia Bonta, Mayes, O'Donnell, Blanca Rubio

**SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0**

**YES:** Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Becker, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hertzberg, Hueso, Hurtado, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Melendez, Min, Newman, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk

**UPDATED**

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CONSULTANT: Ellen Cesaretti-Monroy / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960

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