

Associated Students of Modesto Junior College

Office of the President

8/22/2013

Andrew Campbell
President of the Student Senate
Associated Students of Modesto Junior College

State Senator Cathleen Galgiani
California State Capitol Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

State Senator Cathleen Galgiani
1010 10th Street Suite 5800
Modesto, CA 95354

Senator Galgiani:

I am writing to you in strong support of Assembly Bill 1358, on behalf of nearly twenty-four thousand students of Modesto Junior College. The Associated Students of Modesto Junior College have been ardent supporters of providing every student the chance to contribute to the statewide organization for California Community Colleges students if they so choose.

In 1987, then-Governor Deukmejian signed Assembly Bill 2756 (Hayden), which established a Student Representation Fee (SRF) throughout the Community College system that could be adopted at any of the 112 campuses through elections held by its student body. The Student Representation Fee is a voluntary one dollar contribution collected at the time of registration for the purpose of providing student governmental affairs representatives the means to engage local, state, and federal government in addition to other public agencies.

Unlike their counterparts in the University of California and California State University systems, California Community College students do not have a mechanism in statute to allow for the establishment of a sustainable funding stream for their equivalent of the University of California and California State University Student Associations. Established over thirty years ago, UCSA and CSSA have represented their constituents at all levels of government with the financial support of the very students whose testimonies they bring to the Capitol and the District Offices of their representatives. Despite the reality that the 2.4 million constituents of the California Community Colleges are comparatively much larger than their UC and CSU counterparts, our system does not have the legal authority to voluntarily, sustainably, and consistently support our statewide student organization.

Assembly Bill 1358 will empower over 2.4 million students in establishing and sustaining statewide legislative and governmental advocacy through a recognized representative organization, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC). Assembly Bill 1358 would allow those same 112 Community College campuses to each hold an election by its student body, asking students to raise their Student Representation Fee, to a voluntary two dollar contribution collected at the time of registration. The SRF could only be enacted if the voter turnout were larger than the average of the past three elections and passed with a simple majority. Thus, with that second dollar it would be sent towards the State-wide student organization for California Community Colleges. The students of Modesto Junior College are in strong support of Assembly Bill 1358. We are counting on you to be too.

Respectfully,

Andrew Campbell
President of the Student Senate
Associated Students of Modesto Junior College

Modesto Junior College

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