



May 14, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 302 (Berman) – Parking: homeless students
NOTICE OF OPPOSITION**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Rocklin, proud home to Sierra College, to express our opposition to Assembly Bill 302, which would require community colleges with parking facilities on campus to grant overnight access to homeless students for the purpose of sleeping in the student's vehicle overnight.

The City of Rocklin is extremely concerned about the increase in homelessness statewide and we commend the author for looking at ways to alleviate the problem. However, AB 302 does not fix the housing and affordability problem faced by homeless students; furthermore, it does not provide a solution for homeless students who do not have cars. Instead, the bill levies a costly state mandate for all community colleges to provide overnight parking facilities, without taking into consideration whether a particular college has a student population in need of such facilities, or whether the community offers other programs to support homeless students. Perhaps a more appropriate solution for homeless students will become available through Senate Bill 568 (Portantino), which would provide housing options for homeless students, including services to support students transitioning to more stable housing while enrolled in college.

Rocklin takes its role in helping homeless residents seriously. In partnership with cities throughout south Placer County, Rocklin is engaged in a host of efforts to address homelessness; including partnering with local organizations to provide housing, such as the Gathering Inn, and matching our police officers with social service workers to help homeless individuals, including students, find resources.

AB 302 will create an undue burden upon the City of Rocklin's Police Department, which provides police services to Sierra College through a contract arrangement. The overnight parking program will necessitate an increase in police resources to patrol and determine whether individuals sleeping in cars are registered students or simply just overnight campers. In addition, it is expected that the existence of an overnight parking area for homeless students will attract non-student overnight car campers, and community colleges lack the resources and expertise to manage the ensuing public safety issues. Diverting Rocklin public safety resources to fulfill the requirements of AB 302 means that fewer resources will be available to serve the Rocklin community as a whole.

While the concept proposed in AB 302 may be a fit and a worthwhile tool to support at risk or homeless students in some communities, such programs should be optional vs. mandated. Our suggestion is to amend AB 302 to provide funding or reimbursement to colleges that opt to implement an overnight parking program based upon the specific needs of their diverse student populations.

For these reasons, the City of Rocklin is opposed to AB 302 as currently written. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding our position.

Sincerely,

Joe Patterson
Mayor, City of Rocklin

cc: Assemblymember Kevin Kiley
Assemblymember Marc Berman