



736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

<i>City Manager</i> (707) 822-5953	<i>Police</i> 822-2428	<i>Recreation</i> 822-7091
<i>Community Development</i> 822-5955	<i>Finance</i> 822-5951	<i>Transportation</i> 822-3775
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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Marc Berman  
State Capitol  
PO Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: SUPPORT for AB 302 (Berman, as of March 25, 2019)**  
**Parking for Homeless Students on California Community College Campuses**

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

The City of Arcata is writing to support AB 302 (Berman, as of March 25, 2019), which “would require a community college campus that has parking facilities on campus to grant overnight access to those facilities, on or before July 1, 2020, to any homeless student who is enrolled in coursework, has paid any enrollment fees that have not been waived, and is in good standing with the community college, for the purpose of sleeping in the student’s vehicle overnight” and “would require the governing board of the community college district to determine a plan of action to implement this requirement, as specified.”

Nearly half of all community college students are experiencing overwhelming housing challenges: 35% experience ongoing housing insecurity; 15% are homeless; and 56% of community college students face food insecurity. (*Wisconsin HOPE Lab and the Association of Community College Trustees*)

In the fall of 2018, our local community college, College of the Redwoods (CR), had over one hundred students self-identify as facing housing insecurity or homelessness. Students are living in their cars, moving from sofa to sofa, or camping in the redwoods behind the College. A significant number of students are not getting enough to eat. The Food Pantry is assisting over 100 students every week.

The Community College has responded by developing the Redwoods Room & Board Scholarship Fund that supports students struggling to find a safe place to sleep and enough food to eat while dedicating themselves to earning an education. The Scholarship provides these students with housing and meals, so they can focus on their education rather than on their daily survival. The program provides an interim safety-net that gives students an opportunity to build

rental and job history, while they have the stability of housing & meals. CR's Housing Liaison will work with recipients to secure sustainable housing in the community.

Although CR has made tremendous strides to house students experiencing homelessness, AB 302 provides an additional tool for the campus to use to support students. For these reasons, the City of Arcata **supports** AB 302 (Berman, as of March 25, 2019). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Brett Watson, Mayor  
City of Arcata

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov & VIA FAX: (916) 651-4902  
Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov  
Assembly Member Jim Wood, VIA FAX: (707) 445-6607 & (916) 319-2102  
Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, [sanders@cacities.org](mailto:sanders@cacities.org)  
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