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Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager
(707) 822-5953

Police
822-2428

Recreation
822-7091

Community Development
822-5955

Finance
822-5951

Transportation
822-3775

Environmental Services
Streets/Utilities
822-5957

Environmental Services
Community Services
822-8184

Engineering
& Building
825-2128

July 3, 2019

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
California State Capitol Room 2187
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT for AB 302 (Berman, as of June 26, 2019)
Parking for Homeless Students on California Community College Campuses**

Dear Senator Jackson,

The City of Arcata is writing to support AB 302, which “would require a community college campus that has parking facilities on campus to grant overnight access to those facilities, on or before April 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. 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

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