



736 F Street
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 25, 2019

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT for AB 302 (Berman, as of July 11, 2019)
Parking for Homeless Students on California Community College Campuses

Dear Senator Portantino,

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a stylized "W".

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

Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org