

Kristen F. Soares
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April 6, 2017

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

**Subject: AB 387 (Thurmond)—Minimum wage: health professionals: interns
Request for opposition, as introduced February 9, 2017**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) respectfully requests your opposition to Assembly Bill 387 (Thurmond), when it is heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This bill would require that students in allied health professions be paid a minimum wage by the healthcare provider where the student is interning.

AICCU represents 79 WASC-accredited, private, nonprofit colleges and universities. AICCU institutions educate 188,000 undergraduate students, and 144,000 graduate students, graduating 22% of all undergraduates and 55% of graduate professionals into the workforce each year. AICCU institutions educate a critical percentage of healthcare professionals in California, and often graduate the majority of healthcare providers in certain fields.

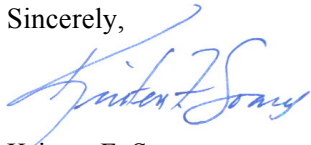
Many campuses offer health degree programs that require licensure or certification to work in that profession after graduation. This clinical experience gained through the residency programs is considered part of the student's education, not employment. The students are consistently supervised when they provide care to patients as part of their training. This partnership with healthcare providers is critical to the education and training process for students and is a workforce pipeline for the providers, once the students graduate and are licensed or certified.

While we appreciate the author's intent to increase the diversity of the workforce, AB 387 would result in a decrease in the capacity to train these students with real world experience. Providers having to pay students would force them to limit the number of training positions available, and perhaps shift the cost to colleges and universities. Clinical placement is already a challenge in California, because of the limited number of slots available at healthcare provider locations and because the state does not participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement; this bill would only compound the problem and risk the closure of these residency programs and degree programs at the higher education institutions.

Consequently, this would have a negative impact on the healthcare provider workforce in the state, including the diversity the bill aims to foster. There is already a shortage of health professionals across the healthcare field in California and across the country. AB 387 would exacerbate this program by putting in jeopardy the pipeline for a strong and diverse caregiver workforce. This will increase healthcare costs for the state and its citizens, and shift additional cost burdens for clinical residency programs to colleges and universities, both private and public.

For these reasons, AICCU respectfully opposes AB 387 and urges your opposition as well when the bill is heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,



Kristen F. Soares
President

Cc: Assembly Member Tony Thurmond
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Luke Reidenbach, Senior Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joshua White, Assembly Republican Consultant