

Kristen F. Soares
President



June 22, 2017

The Honorable Jose Medina, Chair
Assembly Higher Education
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 577 (Dodd), as amended May 26, 2017
Position: Oppose

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICCU) respectfully writes in opposition to SB 577 (Dodd), as amended May 26, 2017, which would establish the authority of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with the California State University and the University of California, to authorize up to 5 community college districts to offer a teacher credentialing program, duplicating existing programs at the private, nonprofit colleges and universities and the existing programs at the public universities.

The California Master Plan for Higher Education recognizes four segments of higher education, including the private, nonprofit sector, which were the first higher education institutions established in the state. In fact, the Master Plan states: “The Master Plan Survey Team recognizes the great contribution private colleges and universities have made and will continue to make to the state. It has included these institutions in the recommended state-wide co-ordinating agency with the opportunity for an authentic voice bearing on policies directly affecting their welfare.”

AICCU represents 79 private, nonprofit WASC-accredited colleges and universities, which collectively educate almost as many undergraduates as the University of California. In addition, half of these campuses house Schools of Education, and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing recognizes 53 independent programs that provide teacher credentialing. Forty-three percent of teacher credentials are provided by the private, nonprofit colleges and universities.

Not only do these campuses provide access throughout California through traditional programs, but also using technology and online teacher credentialing programs that serve all areas of California. Using the existing capacity of the state’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities not only saves the state money, as the only state monies that are used in our sector are from students who choose to use their Cal Grant at an AICCU campus but also because the state would not bear the brunt of significant startup costs of new programs in the public sector.


AICCU institutions stand ready to help them serve every California student with the career goal of teaching, whether through 2+2 programs with the community colleges, or integrated education programs that enable students to graduate in four years with a credential. We are willing participants in how we can better serve California’s future teachers.

American Jewish University
Antioch University Los Angeles
Art Center College of Design
Azusa Pacific University
Biola University
Brandman University
California Baptist University
California College of the Arts
California Institute of Integral Studies
California Institute of Technology
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
Chapman University
Charles R. Drew University
Chicago School of Professional Psychology
Claremont Graduate University
Claremont McKenna College
Columbia College Hollywood
Concordia University Irvine
Dominican University of California
Fielding Graduate University
Fresno Pacific University
Golden Gate University
Harvey Mudd College
Holy Names University
Hope International University
Humphreys College
International Technological University
John Paul the Great Catholic University
Keck Graduate University
La Sierra University
Laguna College of Art and Design
Loma Linda University
Loyola Marymount University
Marymount California University
Master’s College
Menlo College
Mills College
Mount Saint Mary’s University
National University
Notre Dame de Namur University
Occidental College
Otis College of Art and Design
Pacific Oaks College
Pacific Union College
Palo Alto University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Point Loma Nazarene University
Pomona College
Providence Christian College
Saint Mary’s College of California
Samuel Merritt University
San Diego Christian College
San Francisco Art Institute
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Santa Clara University
Saybrook University
Scripps College
Simpson University
Soka University
Southern Calif. Institute of Architecture
Southern Calif. Univ. of Health Sciences
Stanford University
Thomas Aquinas College
Touro University California
University of La Verne
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of the Pacific
University of the West
Vanguard University
Western University of Health Sciences
Westmont College
Whittier College
William Jessup University
Woodbury University

We respectfully urge that, instead of expanding teacher credentialing programs, the state utilizes the existing capacities of the private, nonprofit colleges and public four-year universities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Romero, Vice President of External Relations, at 916-446-7626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristen F. Soares". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristen" being the most prominent.

Kristen F. Soares

cc: Senator Bill Dodd
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Kevin Powers, Consultant, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Katie Speria, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus