



City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

March 28, 2019

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

RE: AB 720 (Muratsuchi): Community College Funding for Districts Under Instructional Service Agreements with Public Safety Agencies
NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Medina:

On behalf of the City of Hermosa Beach, I am writing to strongly support Assembly Bill 720 (Muratsuchi), which requires that courses offered by California's community colleges to public safety agencies via instructional service agreements (ISAs) be funded outside the new student-centered funding formula included in the 2018 Budget Act. While the funding formula has the potential to yield some positive outcomes, it also carries unintended consequences which may impact local police and fire departments whose members rely on community colleges to fulfill state-mandated training requirements.

Colleges collaborate with local agencies to offer this training under the California Community College apportionment-funding model. According to data for the 2016-17 academic year, there are 32 districts—almost 30 percent of California's community college system—that offer public safety classes through ISAs serving nearly 15,000 full time equivalent students (FTES) statewide. In the past, 100 percent of the funds received from the state for these training programs came from FTES apportionment. Under the new funding formula, however, over the next three years colleges will receive only 60 percent of the funding based on apportionment. The remaining 40 percent is based on 1) serving students of need, and 2) student outcomes such as graduation rates, degrees, and employment. Police and fire students who participate in ISAs, however, are already employed, already hold credentials, and are not students of need. The criteria tied to the remaining 40 percent are not applicable to the students served through these partnerships. The impact of the change in FTES funding will limit the ability of colleges to serve this important role in our state and may jeopardize public safety training in our communities.

For Hermosa Beach, this change in funding policy particularly impacts El Camino College, located in Torrance, which provides police and fire training serving the South Bay region, benefiting the Hermosa Beach Police Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department, which provides service to Hermosa Beach. Passage of AB 720 would provide a pathway to restoring the 40 percent funding gap, ensuring El Camino College would be able to continue offering this needed training, thereby ensuring and enhancing public safety.



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Time is of the essence on this issue. The funding formula's oversight committee has until 2022 to determine whether to incorporate ISAs into the funding formula—far too long given the urgency of resolving the problem. Therefore, the legislative solution provided by AB 720—separating this category of FTES from the current metrics and keeping ISA classes outside the funding formula—is vitally important. For that reason, I respectfully urge you to support AB 720.

Should you have any questions or would like follow-up information on this matter, please contact our Assistant to the City Manager Nico De Anda-Scaia at ndeanda@hermosabch.org or 310-318-0201.

Sincerely,

Stacey Armato, Mayor
City of Hermosa Beach

cc: Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, Author, 66th Assembly District