**\*\*DO NOT SUBMIT THIS PAGE WITH YOUR LETTER\*\***

**How to Submit Position Letter**

**Create an account with** [**California Advocates**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**:** The California Legislature will only accept letters received through an online portal system called California Advocates.

* Create an account [here](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/), if you do not already have one.
* Follow the prompts and fill out the necessary information to set up your account.
* Once you've set up your account please follow the steps below to begin the letter submission process.

**Create a letter of support:** There is a sample letter on the next page for your reference. Please place the content of the sample letter on your own organizational **letterhead**, include a **signature**, and **tailor** as desired to reflect the perspective of your organization and/or why this bill is necessary. Personal stories are important!

**Submit a letter of support:** Once signed into the portal:

* Select the “Submit a Letter” (top left corner).
* Enter the bill number (AB 79) and session type (Regular). Select “Search.”
* Ensure that the proper bill has populated and select “Next.”
* On the “Submit Letter as” page, either select or enter your organization.
* Ensure that **Assembly Higher Education Committee** is selected. This will ensure that the appropriate legislative staffer will receive a copy of your letter. Select “Next.”
* Upload your letter, select “Support” under “Stance,” and enter a subject line.
* You will be prompted to a final “Review Your Submission” page where you can make sure the information you entered is accurate.
* Once you've done so, select “Submit.”

**You're done!**

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The Honorable Mike Fong

Chair, Asm. Higher Education Committee

1021 O Street, Suite 5650

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 79 (Arambula) - Support for County Liaison for Higher Education Best Practices Working Groups**

Dear Chairmember Fong,

[INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] writes to express our support for Assembly Bill 79 (Arambula), a bill that increases student awareness of essential services by encouraging the sharing between County Liaisons of best practices and successful approaches.

[INSERT SENTENCE OR SHORT PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND/OR YOUR REASONS FOR SUPPORTING AB 79

In 2021, California passed AB 1326 (Arambula), which requires county human service agencies to designate at least one employee as a staff liaison to serve as a point of contact for colleges and universities within that county. AB 79 will build on this success by ensuring higher education liaisons, county staff, and other stakeholders meet regularly to discuss improving the experiences and increasing public benefits enrollment among the college student population, a direct recommendation that came from December's legislative report on the implementation of AB 1326.

College is hard enough without worrying about where your next meal will come from or where you will sleep, yet this is a reality for many. [In a survey of California students conducted by the Student Aid Commission](https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/default/files/file-attachments/food_and_housing_basic_needs_survey_2023.pdf), two- thirds of college students were identified as food insecure and over half were identified as housing insecure, and 66% of undergraduate students are food insecure, with female, low-income, African American, Latinx and older students working to pay for school and often while parenting most likely to have trouble meeting their basic needs.

Individuals unable to meet their basic needs face short and long-term physical and mental health consequences. It can be devastating for college students as it negatively impacts their access, first-year retention, and academic success, leaving them more likely to drop out and undermining the investments that they and financial aid programs have made. Unfortunately, many students eligible for public benefits are not enrolled, which is a missed opportunity for students in need. In a new study by UCLA Center for Healthy Policy Research, they found that among food-insecure students, almost half have never used CalFresh and 9% had never heard of the program. This is especially troublesome given California’s status as the state that provides the most funding for these programs. We know AB 79 will address this by improving the experiences of students in need and the community of social services.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]