



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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EDUCATORS' STUDY SHOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEE INCREASES WILL TURN AWAY 200,000 STUDENTS Middle Income, Black and Hispanics to be Hurt Most

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Federation of Teachers (CFT), AFT, AFL-CIO, today referring to studies conducted by the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, reported that historically community college fee increases have resulted in a 1% drop in student enrollment for each \$1 per unit fee increase. "The increase in fees proposed by the governor would predictably reduce enrollment in the California Community Colleges by more than 200,000 students," CFT Vice President Marty Hittelman, a Math Professor at Los Angeles Valley College, told the Assembly Higher Education Committee today. "The drop in community college student enrollment would total more than the entire University of California student population. What would have been the public reaction had the governor proposed to close UC for a year?"

Hittelman reported to the Committee the findings of fee increase studies. Hittelman compared community college fee increases since 1981, and measured their impacts on student enrollment. "History has shown that increased fees decrease student participation," Hittelman testified. We need to protect community college students with equal fervor as those at UC."

Hittelman said that the fee increases are "fool's gold" because "fees charged to California community college students have never helped the colleges. The proposed increase would raise \$149 million dollars, but funding for community colleges would decrease by \$219 million because of the student enrollment decrease predicted by the governor. The fee increases are a regressive tax to support the general fund." Hittelman's examination of the impact of past fee increases showed that in the Los Angeles Community College District Black student enrollment decreased 26.3% in one year (1984) after fee increases of \$5 per unit were imposed – less than the size of the current proposed fee increase. For Latino students, the number decreased 7% in that one year. Hittelman's examination showed similar enrollment drops after every fee increase.

Hittelman urged the Legislature "not to increase fees, and bring California back to the time when we had the wisdom not to levy a fee on community college students."

The California Federation of Teachers represents over one hundred twenty thousand educators and classified employees at all levels of California public and private education. (end)

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