

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

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S.F. Supervisors Pass Resolution Urging Support of Assembly Bill 1199 to Help Community Colleges Facing Accreditation Sanctions

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—By a unanimous vote, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors yesterday passed Supervisor Eric Mar's resolution supporting Assembly Bill 1199 (AB1199, Fong), urging the California State Legislature to create a "smoothing formula" to assist colleges operating under a probation or "show cause" sanction that are experiencing current year enrollment-related funding losses.

This legislation will allow any community college that has identified a new funding source—as San Francisco voters did with passage of Proposition A—to be temporarily held harmless for loss of state funds for failing to achieve its enrollment target. With a certified plan that addresses accreditation recommendations, the community college in question would have its funding stabilized over a three-year period to protect against a downward spiral in enrollment and State funding.

City College of San Francisco is not alone in facing sanctions in California; currently twenty five per cent of California's community colleges are under sanction.

"This unanimous vote by the supervisors is a great step in supporting the college. It's clear that San Franciscans, from the voters to our elected officials, are looking for ways to the help the college succeed," said Alisa Messer, president of the faculty union, AFT 2121, at City College.

Said Supervisor Mar, "This legislation can help sustain San Francisco City College, which is a critical component of our economy and has served the generations of residents who have fought for its survival."

Paul Fong, a member of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, reacted to news of the resolution: "In taking this action, the Supervisors have supported access to affordable, quality public education not only for San Franciscans, but for community college students across California."

The California Federation of Teachers represents faculty and other school employees in public and private schools and colleges, from early childhood through higher education.

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