

The Honorable Tina McKinnor
Chair, Assembly Public Employment
and Retirement Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5520
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 27, 2026

RE: AB 2417 (Zbur)

Position: Support

Dear Chair McKinnor:

The CFT — A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO, is the sponsor of AB 2417 (Zbur). This bill will ensure that the option of social security as a retirement benefit is provided to part-time community college faculty, and provide basic information about the three most common retirement options so that they are equipped and empowered to make the best-informed retirement plan decisions.

Part-time community college faculty are often individuals who have chosen to give back to their communities by becoming educators in their local community college districts after long careers in the private sector. Most private sector jobs accumulate credit in the social security system. Upon the start of employment with a community college district, the new educator will be provided with several options for their retirement plan, including the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) pension, CalSTRS Cash Balance Benefit Program if offered, and several other options that may be offered by districts. However, while current law also allows the option of Social Security, this option is often not as apparent, nor always offered as the other retirement options.

New part-time faculty may not be aware of the long-term requirements, benefits, and drawbacks of the retirement benefits they can choose between. In many instances, these workers have accumulated decades of service credit in social security, and may not work as a part-time faculty member long enough so that starting over in a new pension system makes financial sense.

AB 2417 brings clarity, ensuring part-timers both have the option of Social Security and a basic understanding of what options they have for retirement planning. The bill accomplished the latter by asking the community college chancellor's office to work with CalSTRS to develop informational materials that cover the financial retirement options available to part-time college faculty. This way, newly employed educators will have the most relevant information at hand so they can make the best-informed decision for their own retirement security.

For these reasons, the CFT is proud to sponsor AB 2417 (Zbur), and respectfully urges your AYE vote. If you have any questions, please contact me at tbrown@cft.org.

Sincerely,



Tristan Brown
Legislative Director
TB: rc-opeiu29 afl-cio

