



VIA FAX AND US MAIL

August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT for AB 1690 (Medina) Community Colleges Adjunct Faculty

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the 50,000 workers represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) AFL-CIO in California, I urge you to support AB 1690 (Medina) when it comes to your desk.

We have members at three community college districts in California as well as other members at the University of California.

As a long time supporter of labor unions, I know you have strong feelings for both fair treatment of workers and education for those underserved. AB 1690 combines essential elements of both.

This bill would specify minimum standards for the treatment of part-time, temporary (adjunct) faculty to be met by community college collective bargaining agreements negotiated on or after January 1, 2017. These standards would relate to, among other issues, the tracking of evaluations that are already included in the education code, workload distribution, and seniority rights. Furthermore, the bill gives a community college district three years to determine whether adjunct faculty should receive the additional job security provided by this bill. Each district will still retain the ability to negotiate the specific implementation of these new employment standards

Currently many adjunct community college faculty have no rights to continue teaching classes that they may have taught for decades. We personally know of many cases where our members -

were denied classes for a wide variety of arbitrary reasons and had no recourse. Our adjunct faculty members exist on poverty wages, getting paid about \$20,000 per year for a maximum allowable teaching load. Losing a class has dramatic economic consequences on their ability to provide the basic necessities for themselves and their families.

The dramatic turnover of adjunct faculty, caused in part by arbitrary decisions to not allow long-term adjunct faculty to continue teach classes they have successfully taught for years, has a negative impact on the quality of education provided to the millions of students attending California's Community Colleges. The precarious nature of non-tenured faculty assignments constrains academic freedom, since the fear of retaliation acts as a censure upon these workers.

Please support Assembly Member Medina's bill AB1690 when it reaches your desk. Feel free to contact our Legislative/Political Director, Liz Sorenson, at the above address should you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas Runnion

Tom Runnion, Vice President CWA District 9

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cc: Lark Park, Higher Education Liaison for Governor Brown
Liz Sorenson, Legislative/Political Director CWA District 9
Jelger Kalmijn, President CWA-UPTE Local 9119