



September 24, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Room 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Assembly Bill 1400 (Soria)** Community Colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in  
Nursing Pilot Program (As Amended on August 29, 2024)  
**Executive Committee of the Cal Poly, SLO & Maritime Academy Position:**  
Veto Request

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Maritime Academy wishes to express our endorsement of the attached request from the Academic Senate of the California State University to veto Assembly Bill 1400.

There are numerous reasons to veto AB 1400, the least of which being that it conflicts with the principles of non-duplication California State University (CSU) campuses and California Community Colleges (CCCs) are held to since the passage of AB 656, California State University: doctoral programs (McCarty) in October of 2023: non-duplication of degree programs and AB 927, Public Postsecondary Education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program (Medina). AB 927 specifically prohibits CCCs from offering bachelor's degrees offered at four-year campuses, and AB 656 prohibits CSUs from offering doctoral programs already offered at UCs.

Assembly Bill 1400 by Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria would authorize 10 community college districts to duplicate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees currently offered at CSU campuses. This is in direct contrast to the spirit of both AB 656 and 927 and would create an atmosphere of competition

between CSU and CCC campuses to compete over an ever- shrinking pool of in-state students, rather than forming partnerships that promote the professional successes of California students.

Rather than stress the state's resources further with the creation of curricula at community colleges that already exist at CSU campuses, focus should be centered on what the Governor promoted when vetoing the previous versions of this legislation (SB 985 and AB 2104). Faculty and staff at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo have worked diligently to streamline transfer criteria, expand Associate Degrees for Transfer opportunities for community college students, and have recently partnered with Allan Hancock College and Cuesta College to offer 2+2 programs in Sociology, Liberal Studies, and Business Administration, which lead to bachelor degrees from Cal Poly.

Further reasons to veto AB 1400 are outlined in the attached letter from the ASCSU but are summarized below:

- AB 1400 does not create more registered nurses because it does not expand clinical placements in health-care facilities.
- AB 1400 interferes with implementation of the California Master Plan for Career Education because it creates competition for scarce clinical placements and does not address the shortage of qualified nursing faculty in the state.
- AB 1400 conflicts with the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program because it risks the termination or the diminishment of CSU/CC partnership programs developed through grant resources.

The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Maritime Academy are eager to work with the administration of the State of California to implement its critical goals for the success of California residents through partnerships with our colleagues at community colleges. AB 1400, however, represents a costly, inefficient use of stressed state resources and will not achieve its ultimate goal of producing more nurses.

We therefore respectfully urge you to veto AB 1400, consistent with your vision for California and your support for the workforce of our state.

Sincerely,

Jerusha B. Greenwood, Ph.D.

Academic Senate Chair, on behalf of the Academic Senate Executive Committee, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Maritime Academy  
Academic Senate

CC: Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria  
Livia Shmavonian, Governor's Office  
Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Governor's Office  
Andrew Medina, Senate pro Tem's Office  
Mónica Henestroza, Assembly Speaker's Office  
Assemblymember Dawn Addis, Assembly District 30  
Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson, Assembly District 11  
Senator John Laird, Senate District 17  
Senator Christopher Cabaldon, Senate District 3