



California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association

www.cccsfaaa.org

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April 17, 2007

The Honorable Karen Bass
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento CA 95814
Facsimile: (916) 319-2147

RE: Oppose Assembly Bill 1540 (Bass)

Dear Assembly Member Bass:

I am writing in opposition of AB 1540 on behalf of the California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA), a non-profit, professional membership association representing nearly 800 members at 109 California Community Colleges.

The Cash for College budget for the 2007-2008 campaign was \$580,000. AB 1540 would increase the annual budget to \$3,000,000. This program has been funded for the past three years from the Student Loan Operating Fund (EdFund) at the discretion of the Commission, not the legislature. This is much different than putting the operational budget into law, as AB 1540 attempts to do. CCCSFAAA supports financial aid outreach, but not at the cost of legislating funding from the Student Loan Operating Fund (EdFund). AB 1540 would permanently provide a source of funding but also deplete the limited resources of EdFund without (1) the effectiveness of the Cash for College Campaign being regularly assessed based on pre-established criteria, and (2) the establishment of a prudent balance of the Fund for its main purposes of supporting student loan operations and collections.

Thank you for your work in helping keep the promise to the 2.5 millions students who currently attend the 109 California Community Colleges to ensure that higher education is never limited by a financial barrier for the State's neediest students.

Beth Asmus
President