



The Education Trust–West

Fierce
advocates for
educational
justice, pre-k
through
college.

July 10, 2024

The Honorable Ana Caballero, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Capitol Building, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2057 (Berman) Associate Degree for Transfer - As Amended May 16, 2024
SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Caballero,

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California's education system, Ed Trust–West (ETW), we are proud to support AB 2057 (Berman).

This bill is an important next step in ensuring that California's transfer process is student-centered: establishing clear goals for closing persistent racial equity gaps in transfer attainment and broadening access to easily navigable science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) transfer pathways.

The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) has a proven record of success and is the most valuable tool we have at our disposal as California seeks to further simplify the transfer process. Established in 2010, the ADT created a streamlined transfer pathway for California Community College students to the California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) by aligning coursework necessary to transfer to a CSU or UC with the coursework needed to earn an associate degree.

The ADT was created with the goal of ensuring community college students earn an associate degree while on their path to transfer, streamlining the transfer requirements across the CCC system, reducing time and excess credit units for the benefit of the student and the state, and guaranteeing a student junior standing at the CSU so they can expect to achieve a Bachelor's degree within two years of transfer. Since the program's inception, approximately **half a million students have earned an ADT**.

Today, the transfer pathway is more important than ever. Our economy demands a more highly educated workforce and a college degree is still the best insurance against unemployment and poverty. Despite significant progress that has been made to improve transfer for students, access

to transfer remains inequitable in California. Transfer rates are especially concerning for California's low income, first generation, Black, and Latinx students.

AB 2057 offers a particularly timely and salient set of interventions to ensure that access to STEM pathways remains racially equitable, and that we establish clear goals to ensure continued progress in our efforts to close racial and ethnic equity gaps in transfer.

For the above reasons, we strongly support AB 2057 and urge your AYE vote.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Rivas
Senior Director, Policy and Government Relations
EdTrust-West

Cc: Assemblymember Mark Berman
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Lenin Del Castillo, Senate Appropriations Consultant