



Testimony on Senate Bill 3
House Education Committee
May 6, 2018

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Alonso-Leon and Helt, and members of the Committee. My name is Anthony Medina, and I am the Interim Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 3.

You have received information from Patrick Crane, the Director of the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, in today's hearing on applied baccalaureate degrees generally, and I will not restate that information here. However, I would like to provide a couple of comments specific to the bill.

Colleges are primarily funded on the basis of full-time-equivalent students (a measure that considers both student headcounts and credit loads, providing a relatively complete picture of the amount of education being provided). The formula and weights used to fund colleges was created under the assumption that colleges exclusively grant associate degrees and other associate and sub-associate degree level credentials. As such, the introduction of applied baccalaureate degree programs at the community college level will have an unpredictable effect on the distribution of funding between colleges. This could result in institutions with fewer available resources to develop these programs receiving a smaller share of available community college funds over time, unless the legislature were to devote a specific additional stream of funding for applied baccalaureate degrees.

We are requesting that the committee draft an amendment to include a provision in the bill that would require colleges also submit to HECC, at the time they request our review, information about similar program availability in the state. This language would require colleges to contemplate and HECC to review the competitive effects of the establishment of a new applied baccalaureate program

Thank you for your time today.