

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 176 (Bonta) – As Amended March 23, 2015

[Note: This bill is double referred to the Assembly Health Committee and will be heard as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Data collection

SUMMARY: Requires the Board of Governors (BOG) of the California Community Colleges (CCC), the Trustees of the California State University (CSU), and the Regents of the University of California (UC), whenever said entities collect demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of students for a report that includes student admission, enrollment, completion, or graduation rates, to use specified collection and tabulation categories for Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander groups, as specified. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires that on or after July 1, 2016, whenever the CCC BOG, the CSU Trustees, or the UC Regents collect demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of students for a report that includes student admission, enrollment, completion, or graduation rates, the entity shall use separate collection categories and tabulations in accordance with the following:
 - a) No later than 18 months after a decennial United States Census is released to the public, each entity shall use the collection and tabulation categories for Asian, Native Hawaiian, and the Pacific Islander groups as they are reported by the United States Census Bureau;
 - b) Until the release of the next decennial United States Census (following the enactment of this measure), each entity shall use the collection and tabulation categories for Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander groups that the entity used as of January 1, 2015; and,
 - c) Each entity shall observe current standards regarding compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and shall observe criteria for ensuring statistical significance of data collected and published.
- 2) Requires that each entity make the demographic data publicly available, except for personal identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential, by posting the data on the applicable entity's Internet Website by July 1, 2016, and shall update the data annually.
- 3) Specifies that this measure shall not take away from any other state agency from posting data collected, as specified, on the state agency's Internet Website as specified in current law.
- 4) Stipulates that this measure applies to the UC Regents only if the UC Regents, by resolution, make it applicable.
- 5) Defines "entity" to mean the CCC BOG, the CSU Trustees, and the UC Regents.

EXISTING LAW: Requires state agencies, boards, and commissions that directly or by contract collect demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use

separate collection categories and tabulations for each major Asian and Pacific Islander group, including, but not limited to, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Laotian, Cambodian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, and Samoan (Government Code Section 8310.5).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Background.* According to the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs' Issue Paper on September 5, 2014, data disaggregation is imperative for uncovering economic, educational, and social disparities inherent not only in Asian Pacific Islander (API) American communities, but in all ethnic populations. The Commission finds that the need to disaggregate data is often exemplified by the needs of Southeast Asian American students; often categorized as "Asian," their "lower academic achievement rates are overshadowed by the stereotype that all Asian students excel in academics."

According to information provided by the author's office, many of the communities within the API population face similar challenges in California, such as language barriers and immigration; however, they differ on many issues. This is most evident with respect to education and public health, where the outcomes of some of the largest API groups within the API population raise the average outcome of the greater API population as a whole. For example, although data related to the average API student demonstrates high academic achievements, disaggregated data sheds light on the harsh reality that Southeast Asian subgroups suffer from much lower achievement rates than other API groups.¹ Similarly, data from a 2013 report done by the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice demonstrates that 14 percent of Asian Americans are uninsured; disaggregated data demonstrates that Korean, Tongan and Thai have uninsured rates higher than 22 percent whereas only eight-10 percent of Japanese and Asian Indian populations are uninsured.²

Purpose of the bill. According to the author's office, "By relying heavily on aggregate data of the API community, the state of California fails to recognize that different API ethnic subpopulations have diverse social and economic conditions." The author contends that if the needs of each of the API "subgroups" are not addressed properly, California will run the risk of lower educational outcomes and greater healthcare costs for our future generations. Data disaggregation is imperative for uncovering social, economic and educational disparities within the greater Asian population.

Accurate demographic data is critical in developing effective policies that respond to the needs of California's residents. Data by the diverse API ethnic groups should also be publicly reported so that policymakers, researchers, and community members can better understand how different communities are faring. Tasking the CCC BOG, the CSU Trustees, and the UC Regents to disaggregate the data they collect and report on for API student groups will help to inform the Legislature as to how the students are achieving and performing; allowing the Legislature to determine other steps that may be necessary in order to ensure all students succeed.

¹<https://cdn.evbc.com/eventlogos/108561107/capiaaissuepaper2014.pdf>

²http://www.advancingjustice.org/sites/default/files/Communities_of_Contrast_California_2013.pdf

Scope of data collection. As presently drafted, it is unclear as to if the CSU Trustees and the UC Regents would have to collect disaggregated API student data for both undergraduate and graduate students.

To note, the admissions process for graduate and professional schools is de-centralized; it has an entirely different process from that of the undergraduate process (which is centralized).

Moving forward, the author may wish to clarify if the intent of this measure is to collect and report on both undergraduate and graduate student data, or just undergraduate student data.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

California Black Health Network
California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries
Pasadena Community College District
Young Invincibles

Opposition

None on file.

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