

Sample Talking points for SB 520

Our advocacy efforts are working! The good news is that last week, SB 520 did not have enough votes to make it out of committee. The bad news is it's coming back for re-consideration this Wednesday.

Please make the calls below to all committee members ASAP. We need to keep the pressure on in order to kill this ill-conceived bill!

Let your voice be heard-Please call the Senators listed below and urge them to vote "NO" on SENATE BILL 520

Senate Bill 520 (Steinberg) has a fundamental problem – it subsidizes private online providers with public taxpayer dollars by mandating that our public colleges and universities must approve a specified number of courses developed with private providers.

Education researchers have yet to determine why a vast majority of students fail to complete massive open online courses offered by private vendors. Faculty must be able to maintain high course approval standards without outside pressure to approve courses developed with private providers. Private online providers should not be guaranteed a student market and granted educational legitimacy through our public institutions.

Students do need greater access to courses, but the state should provide needed funding by reinvesting in the public higher education systems rather than by subsidizing private companies. All three segments, including UC, already provide a significant number of online courses, created and taught by faculty members who are part of the college or university.

SB 520 will be heard in committee on Wednesday, April 24

PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW!

This will be a tough sell to the committee members as they will want to give deference to the bill's author, Senator Steinberg, as he is the President pro Tem (leader) of the State Senate.

Please contact the Senate Education Committee members listed below and urge them to oppose SB 520. All you need to say is **"I am calling to urge Senator ___ to vote NO on SB 520. I do not support the contracting out of higher education."**

Please see the attachment if you would like more information.

Senator	District	Capitol Phone	
Carol Liu (D), Chair	25 – Glendale	916-651-4025	
Mark Wyland (R), Vice Chair	38 – Carlsbad	916-651-4038	
Marty Block (D)	39 – San Diego	916-651-4039	
Lou Correa (D)	34 – Santa Ana	916-651-4034	
Loni Hancock (D)	9 – Berkeley	916-651-4009	
Ben Hueso (D)	40 – Chula Vista	916-651-4040	
Bob Huff (R)	29 – Diamond Bar	916-651-4029	
Hannah-Beth Jackson (D)	19 – Santa Barbara	916-651-4019	
Bill Monning (D)	17 – Carmel	916-651-4017	