
PETITION TO OPPOSE SB 1146

As voting citizens in your district, we strongly urge you to oppose SB 1146. It is an attack on student choice, and primarily harms lower-income and minority students

California's religious colleges and universities work hard to integrate their religious beliefs throughout their curriculum and student life. **SB 1146 attacks these faith-based schools.** To be eligible to admit students with a Cal Grant (*a state-funded scholarship for lower-income students*), this bill would require religious colleges to abandon their moral and religious beliefs by changing their policies regarding sexuality and marriage.

Current law allows religious schools to maintain moral provisions in keeping with their particular faith (*e.g., not permitting biological men who identify as women to live with female roommates, not permitting same-sex married couples to live in married student housing*). SB 1146 requires those schools to change such religiously-inspired practices, or to become ineligible destinations for Cal Grant students.

Effectively, this bill targets and punishes those religious beliefs with which the state disagrees. But the real losers are the lower-income and minority students who will be "collateral damage" from these shortsighted regulations.

Proponents claim SB 1146 will not affect Cal Grants nor harm students. **This is not true.** First, the author removed protections for Cal Grants access at the request of the Judiciary Committee. Secondly, even if those protections were restored, they are meaningless. **The key mechanism of the bill remains: if a school does not comply with SB 1146's "non-discrimination" requirements, Cal Grant students may not be admitted.**

The end result of SB 1146? Thousands of lower-income and minority students unable to attend the religious college or university they wish to attend. This is an attack on student choice, plain and simple.

Religious colleges in California do a phenomenal job in serving lower-income students, helping them graduating them at far higher rates than their state-run counterparts. They are transparent about their moral policies, they do not engage in unjust discrimination or harassment against LGBT students, and are open to even greater transparency.

The bill's author admits that this bill in drastic need of revision. It harms thousands of Cal Grants students (*including religious LGBT students*) to placate only two LGBT students who have alleged unjust discrimination from religious schools in support of this bill.

We therefore urge you to oppose SB 1146. LGBT students can be protected in California schools without harming Cal Grant students or attacking religious liberty.



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