

Peralta Community College District
RESOLUTION 11/12-6
IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 52

WHEREAS, health insurance costs are a major strain the annual budget of the Peralta Community College District and other public agencies in our area, on the pocketbooks of our students and their families, and on the payrolls of our local business community; and

WHEREAS, health insurance rates continue to rise rapidly and have forced the Peralta Colleges to choose between providing adequate pay and benefits for our employees versus classes and services for our students; and

WHEREAS, health insurance inflation has put regular access to health care out of reach for many families; and

WHEREAS, this year, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of California announced rate increases of up to 59% for thousands of policyholders in California, igniting a public outcry throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, after repeated requests from State authorities, both companies finally agreed to postpone the increases and submit them to independent review, a requirement already provided by State law; and

WHEREAS, current law gives no guarantee that insurers must rescind these or any other rate increases that, upon review, are found to be excessive; and

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Feuer has introduced Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), which would protect consumers and businesses by empowering State regulators to reject excessive health insurance rate increases; and

WHEREAS, AB 52 would require health plans and insurers to seek approval from State regulators prior to raising health care premiums, copayments, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs; and

WHEREAS, AB 52 would also build upon newly-implemented federal and State law improving the health insurance rate filing and review process; and

WHEREAS, health insurers continue to announce premium increases that far outpace the rate of medical inflation; and

WHEREAS, these significant rate increases sometimes come multiple times within a single year on the same policyholders; and

WHEREAS, AB 52 is needed in order to give California's Insurance Commissioner the

authority needed to reject excessive rate increases; and

WHEREAS, AB 52 is supported by Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, the California Nurses Association, AARP, Consumers Union, and the Children's Defense Fund - California, among many others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Peralta Community College Board of Trustees hereby supports AB 52 and directs the Chancellor to communicate this support to the Governor and the Bay Area state legislative delegation and to use the District's lobbying resources to advance adoption of this legislation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of July, 2011 by unanimous Board vote, unless the Board minutes reflect otherwise.

Wise E. Allen

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Peralta Community College District