

# California State Senate

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September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 963 (Petrie-Norris)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 963, which establishes the Student Civic Engagement and Voter Empowerment Program (Program) to be conducted by the Secretary of State (SOS) in partnership with the California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC).

California institutions already allow their student body, with help from a faculty advisor, to organize into student groups with specific purposes. Considering California institutions' failures to protect free speech on their campuses, there is no assurance that the institutions will not further alienate students with diverse viewpoints. According to Inside Higher Education, research shows that a "healthy majority of faculty members and students in higher education skew liberal, particularly at four-year institutions." Given the likelihood of campus institutional bias, every college and university should require every employee to receive implicit bias training so that they will be sure to protect minority rights and truly empower all student voters, not just those of a particular party.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shannon Grove  
Senate Republican Leader