



**ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT
SB 802 (Roth) - SUPPORT**

September 2, 2021

TO: Members of the California State Assembly

FROM: Californians for Economic Justice
Center for Public Interest Law
The Century Foundation
Children's Advocacy Institute
Consumer Federation of California
The Education Trust - West
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates
The Institute for College Access and Success
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
NextGen California
Public Counsel
Public Law Center
Veterans Education Success
Veterans Legal Clinic

RE: SB 802 (Roth) – SUPPORT AS AMENDED 8/30/2021

The above organizations urge your support for SB 802, which would reauthorize the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) and the California Private Postsecondary Act of 2009.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating and inequitable impact in California, and the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic also arrived on the heels of a long period of deregulation of for-profit schools at the federal level. In the past, the overlap of an economic recession and a loose postsecondary education regulatory environment has led to significant increases in enrollment at for-profit colleges, as predatory programs target the unemployed with aggressive recruiting efforts. Unfortunately, recent enrollment trends in California are following similar problematic patterns; there have been significant decreases in enrollment at community colleges and other public and nonprofit universities, and more students are enrolling in for-profit institutions. The most vulnerable students are often targeted by predatory programs, bear a disproportionate risk, and suffer the consequences.

The Bureau serves an essential function for the state of California, tasked with serving as the first line of defense for students who enroll in private postsecondary programs and the primary state-level regulator of for-profit schools in California. The agency’s enacting statute encapsulates the need to prioritize student and consumer needs: “...Protection of the public shall be the bureau’s highest priority.”¹ It is therefore not only essential that the Bureau be reauthorized this year, but also that it has the authority, capacity, and funding necessary to carry out its responsibility to protect students.

For all these reasons, we urge your AYE vote on SB 802.

If you have any questions regarding this alert, please directly contact any of the above organizations or call Angela Perry at (510) 318-7902.

¹ California Education Code § 94875.