



Amrita Singh
State Legislative Counsel

(202) 466-3234 x212
(202) 898-0955 (fax)
americansunited@au.org

1901 L Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

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The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Senator, 33rd District
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 1146

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of its California members and chapters, Americans United for Separation of Church and State is pleased to support SB 1146, as amended, which would require institutions affiliated with religious organizations to publicly disclose when they claim exemptions to the nondiscrimination protections in the Equity in Higher Education Act or Title IX. Requiring such disclosures is important, as it would allow prospective students and employees to make informed decisions about attending school or accepting employment.

Institutions that claim exemptions under Title IX and California's Equity in Higher Education Act do not provide the same levels of protections for their students as other colleges and universities, even though they accept federal and state funds. That means students, faculty, and staff—especially those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender—could face expulsion or loss of their jobs at these schools. SB 1146 would require schools that claim these exemptions to disclose that to the California Student Aid Commission, as well as students and staff, both current and prospective. This would ensure that students and employees have the information they need to make such important decisions.

For the above reasons, we thank you for your hard work and commitment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Amrita Singh
State Legislative Counsel