

WHEREAS, the mission for Bakersfield College is to, “provide opportunities for students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to attain Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer”;

WHEREAS, Bakersfield College serves over 35,000 students from diverse backgrounds, ranging from suburban Bakersfield (population over 300,000) to rural farming areas such as Arvin, Delano, Wasco, McFarland, and Tulare County;

WHEREAS, Maslow's Hierarchy of needs have Physiological needs (food, water, warmth, and rest) and safety needs as two of the five basic needs for an individual to achieve one's fundamental goals;

WHEREAS, health care is an amenity that is crucial for students and is a potential differentiator that can not only save college students money, but also become a crucial component to a student's education;

WHEREAS, access to medical care promotes student retention and success. Some students may come to college with medical insurance, but for those who do not the incurred expense of an unexpected injury or illness may affect their ability to remain in college and progress towards graduation;

WHEREAS, section 76355 of the Education Code gives the governing board of a district (KCCD) to require community college students to pay a fee for health supervision and services, including direct or indirect medical and hospitalization services, or the operation of a student health center;

WHEREAS, the mission of the BC Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) is “to improve health outcomes for all our students, thus reducing disparities, increasing equity, and supporting the overall mission of the college. The goal is to help students persist and succeed by supporting a state of optimum health, both mental and physical”;

WHEREAS, the SHWC provides students with a) treatment by a full time nurse practitioner whose scope of practice includes diagnosing and treating diseases with in-office procedures and prescribed pharmaceuticals, b) treatment by a full time college nurse whose licensure requirements and scope of practice are well beyond those necessary for a hospital “staff nurse” position, and c) therapy by two full time licensed clinical social workers and a team of interns;

WHEREAS, the SHWC provides students with free, self-serve menstrual pads, tampons, over-the-counter medications, male condoms, female condoms, dental dams, personal lubricant, hand sanitizer, face masks, face shields, surgical gloves, and a private lactation room;

WHEREAS, women are empowered by control over their reproductive system and the SHWC provides on-campus access to no and low cost contraception, including long acting reversible contraception;

WHEREAS, transportation to and from medical appointments is a significant barrier to care which the presence of the SHWC on the BC campus addresses by both being physically present where students are located and by connecting students with transportation resources for referrals;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 epidemic caught the United States Healthcare system off-guard as the SHWC scaled its operations to over 35 nurses conducting on and off-campus vaccination clinics which delivered over 4,000 COVID and flu vaccines since the beginning of the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the International Association of Counseling Services recommends set the ratio of mental health professionals to students of 1 to 1,600—while fully matching this ratio may not be a realistic goal—hiring 4-5 qualified, full-time licensed or credentialed professionals would meet the demands of this service and move BC closer to the desired ratio.

WHEREAS, the National Center for Health Statistics within the Centers for Disease Control publish health care spending data indicating the average amount spent per person on health care in the United States was \$11,582 per year with a total of \$3.8 trillion in 2019;

WHEREAS, the student health fee revenue has amounted to \$772,124 in FY19, \$204,206 in FY20, \$550,149.46 in FY21, and \$656,972.5 in FY22 while the minimal cost solely of the labor to provide the services offered by the SHWC is projected to be \$732,228.75 resulting in a probable shortfall before a single supply, service, or piece of equipment is purchased;

WHEREAS, a shortfall in the student health fee will likely result in a loss of crucial medical, nursing, mental health, reproductive, and self-serve items to students as positions within the department cannot be funded;

WHEREAS, the California Community College Chancellor's Office has authorized a maximum health fee of \$26 for Fall and Spring instructional semesters, and \$22 for summer semester and SHWC is solely funded on the student health fee which is currently \$18 for the Fall and Spring instructional semesters, and \$15 for Summer semester;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Code Section 76355 and KCCCD Board Policy, the following category of students shall be exempt from the Health Services Fee: a. Students who depend exclusively upon prayer for healing in accordance with the teachings of a bona fide religious sect, denomination, or organization; b. Students enrolled in an approved apprenticeship training program; c. Students enrolled only in courses of two weeks or less duration; d. Students who are incarcerated; and e. Students who are primarily attending high school;

Be it resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association supports the 98th Senate Session passage the Student Health Fee adjustment through the amendment of KCCCD Board Policy 5030 to read:

Student health services shall be provided in order to contribute to the education aims of students by promoting physical and emotional well-being through health oriented programs and services. A student health and wellness program is an essential part of the total educational process of the college. The Board of Trustees approves a student

health/wellness program consistent with Title 5. The Board-approved student health program will provide clinical services; mental health services; support services, including maintenance of student case health records in a confidential and ethical manner; and special health services, including health education and a student accident insurance program. The District and/or College will charge the maximum allowable fee as approved by the State Chancellor's Office in accordance with the Education Code. Changes in the maximum allowable fee will be reported to the Board of Trustees and the Student Government Association prior to implementation.

Be it further resolved, the BC Dean of Students be tasked to ensure all measures are conducted at the College and District levels to effectuate the aims of this bill.