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# California State Senate



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RETIREMENT

SENATOR  
**JOHN M. W. MOORLACH**  
THIRTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

## FACT SHEET

### Senate Bill 677- Student Whistleblower Protections

#### BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 677 would create whistleblower protections for students who have reasonable cause to believe that a violation of state or federal statute, or a violation of or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation, or applicable local agency policy has occurred in the classroom or on campus. The bill would additionally allow students to record the incident as well.

#### ISSUE BACKGROUND

Educational institutions often limit the recording of classroom activities. One of these "no recording" policies was recently used to protect an instructor who was publicly shaming students and to punish the student who attempted to bring transparency to the situation.

These recording policies go too far when they attempt to silence the truth. Senate Bill 677 would ensure that students who witness activities in the classroom which violate state or federal law or regulation and/or a local agency policy are free to document and report the situation to the necessary authorities or to the media, including social media.

In an educational environment, students should feel the freedom to question their instructors— and even more so, should be protected when they seek to expose activities which violate laws or school policies. Senate Bill 677 is patterned after the whistleblower protection given to employees in the workplace, which are some of the best protections in the nation. Just as employees must feel free to

document and report violations in the workplace, students must be given the same protection and freedom to ensure that professors and administrators are not using their authority to silence those with differing opinions.

#### SUPPORT

- None on file

#### OPPOSITION

- Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

#### CONTACT

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