

Dear [Assembly Member Name],

I am concerned that SB 1146 would remove religious protections at California's faith-based colleges and universities. As written, Fresno Pacific University and similar schools could not have prayer or explore spiritual issues, integrate faith and education, or expect/require students to attend chapel.

The state is stronger because of the education options available to all Californians. Faith-based institutions serve students who are ethnically, socio-economically, and religiously diverse. These institutions contribute to the common good, not *in spite of* but *because of* their convictions.

FPU, for example, is a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), ranking in the top ten HSIs in the country. In fact, graduation rates for all students, including Hispanics—typically above 50% in four years—are the highest in the Central Valley.

Schools like FPU provide an excellent education and comply with local, state and federal laws. FPU values transparency and cares for all students, including LGBT students. The university is committed to the disclosure provisions of the bill, including a more expansive student complaint process. FPU does not tolerate harassment.

California has always been a leader in higher education options, but I believe this bill, in its current form, would limit choice for students who desire to attend a religious college or university, like FPU. The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities has voiced concerns with Senator Lara and proposed amendments to preserve the religious exemption and satisfy his concerns. No amendments have resulted.

Please support religious liberty and consider SB 1146's impact on a California student's ability to choose a college that develops them academically and spiritually. We must continue to protect both students and religious institutions.

Sincerely,

First Last
Address
City, State, Zip