

California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4023

DISTRICT OFFICE
10350 COMMERCE CENTER DR.
SUITE A-220
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

SENATOR.OCHOABOGH@SENATE.CA.GOV

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/OCHOABOGH

SENATOR
ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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December 22, 2021

Dr. Daisy Gonzales, Acting Chancellor
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Dr. Gonzalez,

I write today regarding recent press reports on the use of bots in our community colleges to commit financial aid fraud. The use of these bots is alarming to me since they are essentially displacing real students from enrolling in the specific classes that they need to graduate and transfer, and they are defrauding our financial aid system. In order for the legislature to provide oversight and accountability, I am asking that you please provide my office with answers to the following questions on what is being done to address the issue right now, and what needs to be done in the future to eliminate enrollment by bots:

1. What guidance, best practices, and tools have been provided to individual colleges to help them identify and dis-enroll bots? Is this still mostly a process that is relying on individual faculty to identify these bots?
2. What structural changes are being made to reform the application system (CCCApply) to stop these bots before they can enroll, and what else can be done to stop similar problems in the future before they trickle down to the individual colleges? What is the timeline for implementing these reforms?
3. How does the system plan to financially support community colleges that have substantial reductions in student enrollment due to the disenrollment of these bots?
4. What is being done to protect and safeguard these classes in the future to ensure that they are not subject to fraud, while also protecting the enrollment in these classes to make sure that the students that need the class can actually get into the class?
5. What steps are being taken to ensure that we are targeting bots and not actual students?

With enrollment for the spring semester already underway, it is imperative that the system and colleges are doing everything possible to shut down the use of these bots. I look forward to your prompt responses to these questions, and offer my assistance in promoting policies, legislation, or budget requests that will block these criminals from future harm to our students and colleges. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Couch in my Capitol Office at (916) 651-4023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh", with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH
Senator, 23rd District

cc: Dr. Eloy Oakley, Chancellor. California Community Colleges
Ms. Pamela Haynes, Chair. California Community Colleges Board of Governors