



Assembly Bill 1361 of 2025 Endorsement

RES 242531

EC

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) endorses California State Assembly Bill 1361 University of California: School of Medicine in the County of Kern: Feasibility Study.

RATIONALE: Assembly Bill (AB) 2357 of 2024, which was passed by the California State Legislature in 2024, establishes the University of California Kern County Medical Education Endowment Fund. The proposed legislation “would require the University of California, on or before January 1, 2027, to complete a feasibility study, in consultation with local voluntary stakeholders, to determine the steps necessary to establish a University of California medical school in the County of Kern.” There is a critical shortage of healthcare professionals in underserved regions of California such as Kern County. Establishing a medical school in Kern County will help address this gap by training the next generation of medical professionals and improving access to healthcare in the region. Currently, there are no medical schools in Kern County offering Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) programs. The nearest medical school that offers a DO program is the California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine (CHSU-COM) in Clovis, which is approximately 110 miles north of Bakersfield. The Academic Senate of CSUB endorses the development of a state medical school in Kern County, which will benefit the community by expanding access to healthcare, and foster future collaborative education and research opportunities with CSUB.

Distribution List:

President
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Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains
Assemblymember Stan Ellis

Academic Senate

California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Hwy. • 22 EDUC • Bakersfield, CA 93311

Senator Shannon Grove
California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education

Approved by the Academic Senate: May 1, 2025
Sent to the President: May 13, 2025
President Approved: May 28, 2025