



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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May 1, 2014

The Honorable Isadore Hall  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization  
1020 N Street, Room 156  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1989 (Chesbro), as introduced on February 20, 2014**  
**Scheduled for Hearing in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee on**  
**May 7, 2014**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Hall:

The University of California (UC) would like to express our strong support for AB 1989, which would allow certain students enrolled in enology or brewmaster programs at UC, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, to receive an exemption from current state age restrictions in order to fully participate in bona fide classes and programs where tasting of wine or beer is a necessary aspect of the class or program.

For over 100 years the UC has maintained an active and productive program in research and education in viticulture and enology. The continuing excellence of UC's program has enabled California growers and vintners to develop practices that have allowed California to become a premier wine-producing region. In addition to viticulture and enology, UC's brewing science programs prepare students for careers in production and quality assurance within the brewing industry.

Enology and brewing science programs expose students to a diversity of coursework including chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology and engineering as they pertain to the wine making, and malting/brewing processes. UC students who complete these programs are entering the beer and wine industries in large percentages, and thus we believe AB 1989 is a modest measure that allows students to receive the best advantage and preparation from their academic training.

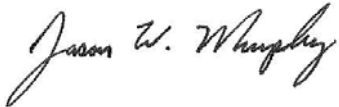
Under existing law in California, college students under the age of 21 who are enrolled in beer and winemaking programs within our state's public universities are precluded from fully participating in the production and sensory evaluation portions of their academic programs until near the end of their academic studies or, in some cases, not at all. The sensory skills that come from tasting wine and beer specimens are critical to a full understanding of the science being advanced in classes, and thus our students are at an educational disadvantage compared to students in other states that allow such tasting.

UC believes that AB 1989, as drafted, includes provisions to restrict the application of the bill as intended - to target only students enrolled in degree-granting programs at accredited California public postsecondary educational institutions. The exemption in the bill applies only to students between the ages of 18 and 21; only allows for *tasting*, not consuming; and only applies to tasting that occurs in a course required for an associate or bachelor degree and in the control of an authorized instructor who is at least 21 years of age. The bill is not intended to include students from other majors taking electives in these educational programs.

California would not be the first state to institute such an exemption. At least 12 other states currently allow students to taste alcohol for education purposes, including other wine-producing states such as Washington and New York. UC believes that its enology and brewery science students should also be afforded this exemption.

As always, the University appreciates your consideration of our views on this important matter. Should you have any questions on UC's position on AB 1989, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-5584.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason W. Murphy".

Jason Murphy  
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro  
Members, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee  
President Janet Napolitano  
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr  
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez