

## CSSA- LEGISLATOR FOR CONSIDERATION

Below is proposed legislation for CSSA to review. This document reflects the status of these bills as of 4/03/2019. For more information on these bills, visit: [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov).

### *STATE LEGISLATION - 2019*

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

##### **AB 540 (Limon) - Service Incentive Grant**

**Problem:** *Currently, Dreamers attending a California college or university have very little opportunity to receive financial aid - despite the current affordability crisis on campuses. Due to federal restrictions on accessing a Social Security number, eligible student Dreamers cannot complete the FAFSA, barring them from receiving any federal financial aid including loans, grants, scholarships or work-study money. While Dreamers are able to access most of the Cal Grant awards, they are still unable to access the need based aid that is critical to student success.*

**Policy Solution:** *AB 1037 establishes, beginning on the 2020-21 academic year, the Cal Grant B Incentive Service Grant Program under the California Student Aid Commission. The grant program would provide up to \$1,500 per semester or \$1,000 per quarter to a student who engages in 300 hours of community service or volunteer related service annually, and meets certain academic requirements.*

##### **SB 24 (Leyva) - The College Student Right to Access Act**

**Problem:** The proponents of this bill argue that a need for this bill exists due to the fact that each month, within the CSU and UC, up to 1,038 students seek medication abortions at off-site health facilities. Due to the distance and delay of seeking this medication, some students are at risk of being ineligible due to the fact that this medication can only be administered before the 10th week of pregnancy.

**Policy Solution:** This bill would require by January 1, 2023, each public university student health center offers abortion by medication techniques. This service could be offered by the institution providing it directly, or by contracting with an already existing provider of this service to provide this service directly on campus.

Currently, funding that would be necessary to purchase the equipment necessary for this new program would be through private funding, administered by the state. Each campus would be eligible to up to \$200,000 in one-time funding to provide for training or new equipment.

However, how a student will purchase the medication is currently up for debate. The author of the bill, as well as the sponsor of the bill believe that campuses can bill through Medi-Cal, which already provides for a subsidized cost of this medication. However, the institution argues that becoming a Medi-Cal provider is extremely challenging and may not be a reality for many of our campuses. Thus, how a student may actually pay for this medication, which unsubsidized can cost up to \$800 per dose, is up for debate, and could potentially fall on campuses to choose to subsidize or not subsidize the cost, potentially through student fee, as many of the health services on campus are paid for through student fee.

#### **AB 1645 (Rubio) - Dream Resource Liaison**

**Problem:** *65,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools, but only 20 percent of these students attend college. Currently there are no consistent means for how these resources are shared with students. The lack of a designated point of contact for undocumented students often leaves them without a reliable resource where they can seek information and guidance.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would require the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), as well as request the University of California (UC), to provide a Dreamer Resource Liaison on each campus in order to provide educational support and resources for undocumented students. In implementing this legislation, undocumented students would have easier access and better resources to ensure their academic success.*

#### **AB 1314 (Medina/McCarty) - Cal Grant Reform**

**Problem:** *The affordability challenge facing CSU students is deep and multifaceted. 80% of students in the CSU receive some form of financial aid, 60% pay no tuition due to state, federal, and institutional aid, and 50% of CSU students are Pell recipients. However, even with this available aid, gaps in financial aid remain.*

*On average, an annual CSU cost of attendance, which includes tuition, fees, food, housing, books, and transportation, is a \$27,000. If a low income student receives the Pell award, and a Cal Grant, they still have, on average, a total remaining cost is \$15,000. This gap is the largest average gap for any public college student who receives aid in California.*

*This gap, as well as eligibility barriers to receive financial aid, as well as a lack of summer aid all demonstrate that our financial aid system in California is broken for a majority of our most financially vulnerable students.*

**Policy Solution:** *AB 1314 is a spot bill that the authors claim will drastically reform the current Cal Grant system. This bill currently seeks to adopt the California Student Aid Commission recommended reform and investment recommendations from fall of 2018.*

*They include:*

- 1. Consolidate Cal Grant A, B, and C awards and the Middle Class Scholarship Program into one program.*
- 2. Remove or reduce eligibility and access barriers in the current Cal Grant Program.*
- 3. Change the model of the Cal Grant Program to focus on the total cost of attendance, including maintaining of full coverage of tuition and systemwide fees for public college and university students.*
- 4. Reinstate a formula for an annual adjustment to the maximum Cal Grant award for students who attend private nonprofit institutions.*
- 5. Support additional Cal Grant eligibility for students taking summer coursework.*

#### **AB 260 (Quirk-Silva) - Competitive Cal Grant Eligibility:**

**Problem:** *The college affordability crisis in California is deep and broad. Students in the CSU have many challenges in affording college. While having enough aid to cover the total cost of college remains an issue, another issues is a lack of access to the state aid program, Cal Grant, for students with demonstrated financial need. This is demonstrated in challenges to access the Cal Grant program through the competitive Cal Grant program.*

*Currently, there are 25,750 competitive Cal Grants available for just under 400,000 income based eligible students. Two ways that the state manages this demand is by places additional eligibility requirements. Two of these create a major barrier for non-traditional students. They include a requirement that a student apply for the Cal Grant no longer than one year after graduating from a California high school, as well as an age restriction of 28 years old.*

**Policy Solution:** *AB 260 functionally removes the time out of high school limitation, as well as the age cap, essentially eliminating the competitive Cal Grant, and making student/family income, student GPA, and residency as the only major eligibility requirements.*

### **SB 291 (Leyva) - Community College Financial Aid**

**Problem:** *College affordability is an issue across all of higher education in California. Due to this, our organization, along with the Student Senate for the California Community Colleges, and the University of California Student Association have banded together to advocate for more Cal Grant awards, that a larger to cover the total cost of attendance, as well as summer Cal Grants, and finally address immediately the basic needs challenges of our students.*

**Policy Solution:** *SB 291 creates the California Community College Student Financial Aid Program, which would be administered by the California Community College Chancellor's office, and would award aid to cover the full cost of attendance for students with financial need. The total cost of the bill would be \$1.5 billion, and be phased in over the course of six years.*

### **AB 1504 (Medina) - Community College Statewide Student Fee**

**Problem:** *Unlike the University of California and California State University student organizations, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) has virtually no presence in the State Capitol, and little to no ability to advocate for legislation that affects California Community College (CCC) students. Currently, the SSCCC is completely student ran, with little to no professional support. With demanding workloads and a lack of infrastructure, members of the board often resign out of frustration. Inadequate funding has resulted in the SSCCC becoming increasingly dependent on the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). The voice of CCC students should not be held by the CCCCCO but by the statewide student organization. Student leaders need more administrative support both at the state-wide level and at the regional level.*

*The Student Representation Fee by statute is to be the primary source of income for the SSCCC. However, only 11 of 115 campuses have implemented the fee. The current method of implementation requires each one of the 114 community colleges to hold an election to collect the \$2 fee. This election must have at least the average of the number of participants that voted in the previous 3 elections for the results to count.*

**Policy Solution:** *AB 1504 will ensure that the \$2 Student Representation Fee is implemented at all California Community Colleges by collecting it from all students upon payment of registration fees. AB 1504 will allow students to opt out of the Student Representation Fee, rather than opting-in as an entire campus.*

### **SB 366 (Chang) - College Harassment Training**

**Problem:** *With college students being the most frequent users of social media sites, there needs to be legislative discussion on cyberbullying. A study conducted by the University of Washington found that college-age women are just as likely to be victimized as younger adolescents, and other studies show that 22 percent of all higher education students experience cyberbullying at some point during their college career. Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender face cyberbullying at rates that are double that of their straight peers, with 48.6 percent having experienced it at least once. Cyberbullying has been linked to suicide, alcoholism, and depression in higher education. It is critical that California's colleges are transparent with the resources that are available throughout this process.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill requires the Trustees of the CSU, and requests the Regents of the UC, to provide educational and preventive information about cyberbullying to students as part of established campus orientations, at all campuses of their respective segments.*

### **SB 354 (Durazo) - Dream Loan Program**

**Problem:** *Undocumented students face significant challenges in obtaining the proper financial aid support that is needed to enroll in a graduate or professional degree program at a public university. Additionally, it is predicted that the US Supreme Court will hear the merits of DACA by 2020, which may have an impact on the abilities of DACA recipients to continue to be employed to finance their education. If the program does in fact end in the near future, many undocumented students will face increased challenges in financing their educational careers.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill provides eligible undocumented AB 540 graduate students with the option to borrow loans to help cover the cost of attending the University of California and the California State University.*

### **ACA 8 (Low) - Voting Age**

**Problem:** *Young adult voters (ages 18-24) in California have the lowest turnout rate of any age demographic. According to data from the USC Price School of Public Policy's California Civic Engagement Project, despite higher young voter turnout rates in the 2018 midterm election, the difference in the eligible turnout rate between young adults and the total population stayed about the same in 2018 compared to 2014—22 percentage points. Only 27.5% of California's eligible young adults voted. Due to low voter turnout, young adults are drastically underrepresented. In the November 2018 general election, young adults made up only 7.6% of those who voted, but were 13.8% of the eligible voting population. Strong young adult electoral participation is critical to achieving a fully representative democracy.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would lower the legal voting age from 18 to 17. The author argues that most young adults first contact with the political process is in their high school*

*government class during their senior year or through volunteering on campaigns for community service credit. Moreover, many 18-year-olds are in a time of transition – graduating from high school, going to college, or getting a job, which is why Asm. Low believes that voter engagement would increase if the state were to lower the voting age to 17.*

### **SB 72 (Umberg) - Conditional Voter Registration**

**Problem:** *Despite strides made by the State of California to expand access to voter registration, we still have an estimated 5.5 million eligible but unregistered voters. Research completed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) shows that in the states that same day registration already exists, it has: increased voter turnout by an average of 10%, remedied inaccurate voter rolls, eliminated arbitrary deadlines that prevents registration, and assists geographically mobile, lower-income, young, and underrepresented voters.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill will expand access to same day voter registration and voting to all eligible voters in California. Starting in 2020, any county not participating in the Voter's Choice Act (where vote centers offer conditional voter registration at multiple sites in a county) will be required to provide conditional voter registration at all polling places in their county.*

### **AB 1689 (McCarty) - College Mental Health Services Program**

**Problem:** *There has been a notable and well documented increase in mental health problems among young adults in the U.S. within the last decade. The National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that over 75 percent of mental health conditions begin before the age of 24. Similar research conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health found that 22 percent of adults aged 18-25 experienced some kind of mental illness. Of that group, only 35 percent pursued treatment.*

*When students do seek help on campus, they face immense difficulties attempting to access mental health services. Many California colleges do not have proper funding and resources to provide adequate mental health services for all students who need treatment and care. These services are in high demand, with departments understaffed, and a large gap in the student-to-counselor ratio. As a result, many students have to wait hours, days, and in some cases, weeks to access these services. In too many cases, as with community colleges, mental health services do not exist at all, simply due to a lack of funding.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would establish the College Mental Health Services Act, allocating funds from the Mental Health Services Act State Administrative Fund to provide mental health services and support for students in the California Community College, California*



*State University, and University of California systems. The bill would also require the participating colleges to provide matching funds toward establishing or improving mental health services for students on their campus. Since this is a one-time funding mechanism, the bill would allow colleges to contract out for such services.*

### **AB 59 (Kalra) - Polling Places: College and University Campuses**

**Problem:** *California's youth vote (age 18-24) has consistently been the lowest among all other age categories - 27.5% compared to a 50% average among all eligible voters.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill requires a CSU campus, and requests the UC, to place a vote center or a satellite office of the county elections office on campus. Additionally, this would amend the California Voter's Choice Act to require consideration of college campuses with at least 10,000 students for vote center locations as part of draft plans.*

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### **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **AB 130 (Low) - OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Problem:** *Prior to 2011, the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) was a state commission to designed to research and guide the difference segments of higher education in California. However, citing ineffectiveness and budgetary constraints, Governor Brown defunded and functionally disbanded the commission. This has left the state with no coordinating body for all segments of higher education.*

**Policy Solution:** *AB 130 establishes the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability (OHEPA) as the statewide postsecondary coordination and planning entity, outlines its responsibilities, functions and authorities, and establishes an advisory board to the office (comprised of legislative appointees) to examine and make recommendations regarding its functions and operations, and to review and comment on the office's recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. The estimated cost to establish the office would be approximately \$1.9 million annually. There are two bills in the Senate which seek to address the same issue, SB 2 and SB 3.*

### **AB 307 (Reyes) - YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

**Problem:** *In California, there is currently a homelessness crisis. 54% of the country's youth homeless population live in California. Additionally, CSU students are not immune to this crisis. 10.9% of CSU students are currently homeless.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill creates a grant program to be administered by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to award nonprofits and Continuum of Cares. The grants will be specifically for youth experiencing homelessness, including housing assistance and wrap around services. The annual budget request attached to this bill is \$100,000,000 annually.*

### **AB 381 (Reyes) - PREVENTING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES**

**Problem:** *According to the California Women's Health Survey, 40% of California women experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes, with college aged women being 11% more likely to experience dating or domestic violence. Further education and resources presented to students at orientation would help lower that percentage among college women, and give them tools to utilize if they ever needed assistance.*

**Policy Solution:** *This legislation would expand on the orientation requirements already in place on college campuses, requiring that there be education on the warning signs of dating and domestic violence; training on the prevention of dating and domestic violence; and on and off campus resources, laws, and policies which impact and can be utilized by the student as it relates to dating and domestic violence.*

### **AB 540 (Limon) - SERVICE INCENTIVE GRANT**

**Problem:** *AB 540 qualifies undocumented students for in-state resident fees/tuition payments at a Community College, the California State University, and the University of California.*

*Specifically, a student is eligible if they: attended high school in California for three or more years; graduated from a California high school; are enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California, and files an affidavit stating that he/she has applied to legalize his/her immigration status or will apply as soon as he/she is eligible. AB 1037 provides an opportunity for AB 540 students to access incentive grants, regardless of eligibility to work, to help fill their unmet financial aid gaps.*

*More specifically, the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program would be awarded to AB 540 students who meet the Cal Grant B requirements, are determined by CSAC to have unmet need, are enrolled at a campus of the UC, CSU, or the CCC, or at an independent*



*institution of higher education, and perform a minimum of 300 hours of community service or volunteer work in each academic year the grant is provided- 150 hours per semester or 100 hours per quarter. Once a student has met the requirements they are eligible to receive an award up to \$1,500 per semester, \$1,000 per quarter. The maximum amount of awards that can be given each year would be 2,500.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would establish the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program under the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), as a state program available to California's AB 540 students who are ineligible for Federal Work Study (FWS) programs.*

### **AB 863 (Cervantes) - STUDENT FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION**

**Problem:** *Students are required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive financial aid. According to the National College Access Network, approximately 50% of students who complete a FAFSA are required to complete an additional verification process. This creates an additional burden to low-income students, which the National College Access Network believes is one of the reasons that 22% of those asked to verify their application give up on applying for financial aid.*

**Policy Solution:** *AB 863 would prohibit any single higher education institution, and the California Student Aid Commission, from performing eligibility verification on an individual student more than once. Institutions would still be able to verify students, if selected, who transfer to their institution, and may perform additional verification if a student's enrollment is interrupted for more than one academic year.*

### **AB 930 (Gloria) - CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY: EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**Problem:** *The California State University Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing and governing the entire system. They do so by appointing the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and presidents; developing broad administration policy; providing direction to campus curricular development; and overseeing the efficient management of funds, property, facilities and investments by the system. In response to previous executive compensation conversations, the California Faculty Association is sponsoring this legislation to promote transparency in the future.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would require, for any proposed increase to the compensation of the specified executive officers, that the board include the proposed increase and related information as an informational item on a meeting agenda with a subsequent public vote.*

*It would also prohibit an increase of compensation for an executive officer in a year in which student tuition or fees are increased.*

### **SB 50 (Wiener) - MORE HOMES ACT OF 2019**

**Problem:** *Economic and educational opportunities in California are increasingly concentrated in urban areas, but housing construction has not kept pace with the demand for housing units. This lack of housing construction over the course of the last several decades has turned the overall statewide housing shortage to 3.5 million homes. Students feel the results of this shortage of housing, with skyrocketing rents. The median rent exceeds \$1,800 for a 2-bedroom, according to a 2018 report by Apartment List. Rentals in cities like San Francisco average over \$3,000 per month. Lastly, 10.9% of CSU students experience homelessness due to these high costs.*

**Policy Solution:** *SB 50 allows for building housing near existing job center and public transportation, and includes protections against displacement for renters and vulnerable communities in those areas. The bill waives apartment bans near high-quality transit and in job-rich areas. It also requires specific requirements to provide low-income housing in new developments. It also reduces height limitations in these construction zones to enable more dense housing be built. Lastly, the bill includes a number of tenant protections, to ensure that current tenants would not be displaced by any new construction.*

### **SB 206 (Skinner) - FAIR PAY TO PLAY ACT**

**Problem:** *Existing law requires intercollegiate athletic programs at 4-year institutions that receive \$10,000,000 or more in annual revenue derived from media rights to comply with prescribed requirements relating to student athlete rights. Despite that, student athletes - most of whom live at or below the federal poverty level - do not have to be consulted if an organization or the university would like to use their image or likeness.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would prohibit a California public postsecondary educational institution, athletic association, conference, or other group or organization from preventing a student athlete from earning compensation as a result of the use of the student's name, image, or likeness, as provided. It would also prevent that compensation from affecting that student's scholarship eligibility.*

### **SB 248 (Glazer) - RENTER'S TAX CREDIT**

**Problem:** *Established in 1972, the renter's tax credit has only been increased once in 1979. Since the last increase, rents in California have tripled, but the renter's tax credit has*

*remained the same. Additionally, rental prices across the state have skyrocketed. The median rent exceeds \$1,800 for a 2-bedroom, according to a 2018 report by Apartment List. Rentals in cities like San Francisco average over \$3,000 per month. Median rents have increased nearly 4% since May of 2015 - above the national average. Lastly, most CSU students who live independently from their families rent the space they live in. Thus, an additional financial benefit, through this rental tax credit, may be helpful to them.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would increase the renter's tax credit to account for inflation, aligning the 1979 credit amount with its present day value. This bill would restructure the credit to no longer differentiate between single and joint filers. Instead, it would differentiate between filers who have dependents and filers with no dependents. Filers with dependents would receive \$434, and filers without dependents would receive \$220. The credit would also be refundable, so that people with no tax obligation would still be able to claim the credit. In all, 700,000 enters who now receive no credit or only a partial credit would be newly eligible for the increased amount.*

#### **SB 296 (Allen) - STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: IMMIGRANTS SEEKING ASYLUM**

**Problem:** *Currently in order to be eligible to receive a Cal Grant Program award, a student either be a citizen of the United States or an eligible noncitizen, as established by the Student Aid Commission which oversees the program.*

**Policy Solution:** *This bill would allow a noncitizen who has filed a designated application for asylum, has a valid employment authorization document and social security number, and has signed a specified affidavit access to the Cal Grant.*

#### **SB 461 (Roth) - SUMMER CAL GRANT**

**Problem:** *The affordability challenge facing CSU students is deep and multifaceted. The California state aid program, Cal Grant, gives most students the equivalent of eight semesters of tuition tied state aid. Which means, students can use their current Cal Grant for summer courses, but that would more quickly exhaust their Cal Grant benefit.*

*Additionally, for many low-income students, summer courses is less of a viable financial option without an additional award to help cover the increased costs of summer courses for students.*

**Policy Solution:** *SB 461 would expand the definition of eligibility for students who receive a Cal Grant to include two full-time summer session enrollments. Thus, students would receive an additional Cal Grant for up to two summer semesters.*