



October 7th, 2026

The Honorable Monique Limon
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: Senate Bill 60 - Support

Dear Chairperson Cervantes and Senate Appropriations and Rules Committee members,
We are writing in support of Senate Bill 60, California Higher Education Affordability and Access Act.

Access to higher education has long been a priority of the California state government. Through the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, California ensures that young students have the opportunities to receive a high-quality education, no matter their field. Furthermore, by maintaining a well-educated population, California remains well-equipped with professionals to staff its industries and stay competitive in the global market.

However, recent trends have threatened California's higher education programs. According to the California Legislative Analyst's office, college participation rates have been falling since 2017-18, from a high of 68% to a low of 62%. Among the causes of this trend is both a general increase in cost-of-living and a substantial increase in annual inflation. which means it is harder than ever for students to pay for the cost of college. First generation students are even more susceptible to these factors, since they lack generational wealth that could otherwise cover the cost.

SB 60 creates a \$100,000,000 fund to support students of higher education in California, focusing especially on students in financial need or who are first-generation students. This is a critical step in closing the gap between prospective students of higher education and the financial cost of gaining entry.

The bill also requires a fiscal report by the California Student Aid Commission annually. This will make sure the money is used effectively in supporting youths, and maintain transparency about how the money is being spent. The cost may be significant- but investing in tomorrow's professionals is not optional for a modern, forward-thinking state.

These are turbulent times for California's youth. Ensuring they have reliable access to higher education will ensure they have a future to look forward to- and that they can give back to their communities when that future comes.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support SB 60.

Sincerely,

Henry Chalmers - Lobbyist

University of California - Office of the President