



# Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

## February 2017 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events:

#### Bill Introduction Deadline

February 17  
Sacramento, CA

#### ACCCA Conference

February 21 - 23  
Orange County, CA

#### CEO Symposium

February 25 - 28  
Solvang, CA

#### Asilomar Leadership Skills Seminar

February 28 – March 3  
Pacific Grove, CA

#### A2MEND Conference

March 1 – 3  
Los Angeles, CA

Follow Bills Tracked at:

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### Support for All Community College Students, Regardless of Immigration Status

In mid-January, President Trump issued a series of executive orders impacting immigration and undoing some of the regulatory policies of the Obama Administration. While some orders were later held in court, the message that the Trump Administration would quickly move on campaign promises was made clear.

These actions make it imperative for California's community colleges to reinforce its longstanding principle of equitable access to higher education to all Californians, no matter a student's background. Many colleges, as well as the League, the Board of Governors and California's elected leaders have made it clear that California will do what is possible to protect vulnerable students. The League remains committed to advocating on behalf of the best interests of our students and institutions at both the state and federal level.

Across the state, districts have passed resolutions, board policies or released messages to their students emphasizing their commitment to college environments that are welcoming and inclusive. The League is compiling a list of these resolutions and if you would like yours to be published online, please e-mail Laura Murrell at [laura@ccleague.org](mailto:laura@ccleague.org).

At the State Capitol, numerous legislators have introduced bills in reaction to President Trump's proposed policies. While the League has not yet taken a position on many of the below bills, staff looks forward to engaging with colleges, state legislators and others to ensure our undocumented students' rights are protected.

### Proposed Legislation Relating to California DREAMers:

AB 21 (Kalra) Public postsecondary education: Access to Higher Education for Every Student.

This bill prohibits California's community colleges, the California State University and requests the University of California to the furthest extent legally possible not cooperate with immigration enforcement agencies or officials. Specifically, it requires colleges to:

- Refuse to release of immigration status of a college's students.

- To refuse permission to allow officials of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency to enter their campuses without a written description of their planned activities provided at least 10 days before the visit.
- To provide housing or a stipend during breaks to students who cannot return to their families who live outside the country.
- To provide access to legal services for students who face significant risk of being deported.
- If the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is reversed, provide resources to help these students.

It states the intent of the legislature will be to fund the above provisions through an appropriation in the 2017-18 budget.

SB 6 (Hueso): Immigrants: Removal Proceedings - Legal Services.

Would provide an unspecified amount of funding for legal representation for non-citizens in California facing deportation proceedings. Because deportation hearings are considered a civil matter, those facing deportation do not have a right to legal representation during these hearings. The funding would be appropriated via grants from the Department of Social Services to non-profit agencies that either hire lawyers specializing in deportation proceedings or provide professional development regarding immigration law.

SB 54 (de León): Law Enforcement: Sharing Data

Would prohibit all police agencies in the state of California, including ones employed by community colleges, from sharing information with immigration enforcement officials.

SB 68 (Lara): Public Postsecondary Education: Exemption from Nonresident Tuition

Would enable two years spent at a California community college count towards eligibility for in-state tuition or state financial aid. Additionally, it would permit those who obtain an Associate's Degree or meet minimum transfer requirements to qualify for in-state tuition or financial aid.

## **California Leaders Advocate in Washington D.C.**

National dialogue and partnerships have never been so important. As higher education leaders, our key federal priorities include: funding for year-round Pell grants, investment in workforce programs, student consumer protections, and impacts on students who have applied for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the proposed Bridge Act.

To share the message of California's successes and priorities, college leaders descended on Washington, D.C. for the National Legislative Summit and held several days of meetings with members of Congress. The League in partnership with the Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office shared the following key points in meetings over three days:

- *Reduce Financial Barriers to Higher Education*
  - Reinstating year-round Pell Grants and increasing eligibility from 12 to 14 semesters.
  - Simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to increase completion.
- *Protect Vulnerable Students – The California Dreamers*
  - Preserve DACA, provide protected status to its recipients, and allow undocumented immigrants who are DACA-eligible to apply for temporary protected status.

- Retain Title IV funding for colleges that provide in-state tuition or equitable financial aid eligibility to all students, regardless of immigration status.
- *Provide Quality Federal Oversight – Help Colleges Focus on Educating Our Students*
  - Prevent duplicative federal reporting requirements that force public colleges to spend valuable resources on processing and reporting metrics to the federal government.
  - Align various reporting and outcome standards contained in the Higher Education Act, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.
- *Support Community College Veterans*
  - Fund the Centers for Excellence for Veteran Success in the Higher Education Act.
- *A Workforce and Infrastructure for the 21st Century*
  - Any federal infrastructure investment plans should include funding to support partnerships between community colleges and businesses to train workers in high need fields. Through a continued partnership with the federal government, California's community colleges will help provide the job training needed to build economic growth in the 21st century.



While many leaders expressed support for community colleges, congressional leaders were reluctant to discuss the future of higher education legislation or appropriations without a better understanding of the

Trump Administration priorities. Many of the next steps will also be influenced by the transition of Department of Education Secretary DeVos. Over the next few weeks, the League in partnership with the Chancellor's Office will continue to engage federal representatives and reinforce the importance of community colleges to social mobility.

### **League Offers Legislative Webinars**

Every year the League's Government Relations team engages in advocacy efforts at the state capitol on bills and budget proposals that are of critical importance to colleges. Our advocacy efforts are multifaceted and include committee testimony, capitol visits, and in-district legislative meetings. Active participation and engagement from college leaders is the most effective approach we can take. Therefore, to ensure that at every step of the legislative process college leaders are aware of the most pressing issues, the League is launching a series of legislative update webinars held at key junctures of the process.

March 21, 2017 at 11:30 AM

May 2, 2017 at 11:30 AM

May 30, 2017 at 11:30 AM

We hope that you will save the date and participate. Webinar details and call information to follow. For the latest information on bills tracked by the League, visit [www.ccleague.org/bills](http://www.ccleague.org/bills).

### **Must Read**

#### **Creating a Debt Free College Program**

January 2017, Legislative Analyst's Office

All financially need students, including those at a California community college face a gap between their resources to pay for school and the actual costs of attending college that they must pay either via student loans or working additional hours. This report, which focuses on the gap between a student's total cost of attendance of attending a public college in California and their ability to pay, proposes to close this gap by providing a pathway to a debt free college education. Costing \$3.3 billion, it would provide on average \$4,000 for a community college student, \$2,700 for a CSU student and \$2,400 for a student attending a UC.

The report can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

#### **Securing the Public Trust: Practical Steps Toward Higher Education Finance Reform in California**

January 2017, College Futures Foundation

California's volatile funding for higher education makes it difficult to plan for the future. This report argues that elected officials should find a way to smooth out revenues, reducing spiking during good years and drastic cuts during bad ones. Additionally, it calls on colleges to focus more on student success and the state to implement accountability measures to ensure colleges are meeting state goals and priorities.

The report can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

## **The \$48 Fix: Reclaiming California's Master Plan for Higher Education**

January 2017, Reclaim California Higher Education

This report examines the costs of making all public higher education institutions free while restoring each system's base funding level to where it was in 2000-2001, adjusted for inflation. Costing \$10 billion, the proposal would provide \$426 million to community college students in the form of waived fees, \$3.21 billion to the CSU and \$5.8 billion to the UC in a combination of per student funding increase and waived fees. It is important to note that under this proposal, community colleges would continue to fund the Board of Governor's Fee Waiver program out of their operating budgets. It proposes to fund this proposal via an income tax surcharge, which it claims would cost the average Californian \$48 a year.

The report can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

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