



March 27, 2024

Dr. Michael V. Drake
President, University of California
UC Office of the President
1111 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94607

Dr. Mildred García
Chancellor, California State University
Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Financial Aid Offer Letters for Students from Mixed-Status Families

Dear President Drake and Chancellor García:

We, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, urge the University of California and California State University to publicly announce that your campuses will provide financial aid offer letters to all students—including students from mixed-status families with at least one undocumented parent—and extend their enrollment deadlines to at least June 1, 2024. Students from mixed-status families, especially prospective first-year students, deserve to have substantive information about the state and institutional financial aid resources available to them so they can make informed decisions about pursuing higher education at one of your campuses.

Unfortunately, this financial aid application cycle has been unlike any other. For the first time in over forty years, the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been significantly revised with the goal of making the process of applying for financial aid simpler and more streamlined. However, the FAFSA application experience has been anything but for students from mixed-status families. A legion of technical issues has left these students unable to complete the FAFSA if one of their parents does not possess a Social Security number, even though they themselves are United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, or other eligible non-citizens.

While the U.S. Department of Education has repeatedly restated its commitment to addressing these issues, it has not provided a timeline for their resolution.

Students from mixed-status families have waited too long for a federal fix. Without a comprehensive strategy from your institutions, more than 100,000 California students from mixed-status families are in jeopardy of losing their ability to be considered for state and institutional financial aid, receive financial aid offer letters, and make informed decisions about their college careers.

Students from mixed-status families are often the first in their families to apply for college, and many have already overcome so much adversity just to be in a position to do so. We cannot allow the ongoing issues with FAFSA implementation to leave them without financial aid offer letters from your campuses. We cannot reasonably expect students from mixed-status families to make informed enrollment decisions without information about the state and institutional financial aid resources available to them. We fear that if your institutions fail to act, many students from mixed-status families will defer their enrollment or abandon their pursuit of higher education altogether.

As members of the Legislature, we worked expeditiously to pass Assembly Bill 1887 (Cervantes) to provide both our students and your campuses with additional time to navigate the challenges associated with FAFSA implementation. While the enactment of AB 1887 is a critical step to help our students, your institutions must meet this moment by using this opportunity to help students from mixed-status families. Your campuses have several options at their disposal, including using the California Dream Act Application to gather information to make financial aid offers to students from mixed-status families, or extending enrollment timelines.

California's public institutions of higher learning are world-renowned and provide countless life-changing educational opportunities to our students. That is why making the path to fulfilling students' dreams of achieving higher education more affordable and accessible is among our state government's highest duties. As members of the Legislature, we have done our part. Now it is time for your institutions to do theirs and ensure that all students applying to your campuses—including students from mixed-status families—have both the time and financial aid information necessary to make life-determining choices about where to begin their college careers.


Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sabrina Cervantes".


SABRINA CERVANTES
Assemblymember, 58th District


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Fong".


MIKE FONG
Assemblymember, 49th District

 AD 50
ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES
Assemblymember, 50th District

 AD 45
JAMES C. RAMOS
Assemblymember, 45th District

 AD 53
FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
Assemblymember, 53rd District

 AD 56
LISA CALDERON
Assemblymember, 56th District


 AD 20
LIZ ORTEGA
Assemblymember, 20th District

 AD 4
CECILIA AGUIAR CURRY
Assembly Majority Leader, 4th District

 AD 36
EDUARDO GARCIA
Assemblymember, 36th District


DAWN ADDIS
Assemblymember, 30th District


JOAQUIN ARAMBULA
Assemblymember, 31st District


STEVE BENNETT
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MIKE GIPSON
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MATT HANEY
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JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, 42nd District



ALEX LEE
Assemblymember, 24th District



KEVIN McCARTY
Assemblymember, 6th District



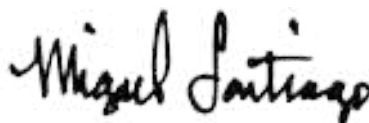
AL MURATSUCHI
Assemblymember, 66th District



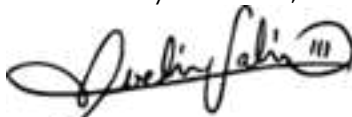
ANTHONY RENDON
Assembly Speaker Emeritus, 62nd District



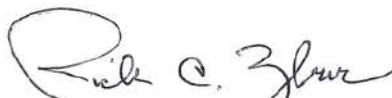
LUZ RIVAS
Assemblymember, 43rd District



MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assemblymember, 54th District



AVELINO VALENCIA
Assemblymember, 68th District




RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
Assemblymember, 51st District



MARIA ELENA DURAZO
Senator, 26th District



LENA GONZALEZ
Senate Majority Leader, 33rd District



MONIQUE LIMON
Senator, 19th District



CAROLINE MENJIVAR
Senator, 20th District



STEVE PADILLA
Senator, 18th District



ANTHONY PORTANTINO
Senator, 25th District



RICHARD D. ROTH
Senator, 31st District