

Dear Assembly Members,

We, the students of the CSU would like to thank you for your service and for your support of the students of the California State University system. This letter is to urge your support for Assembly Bill 21

AB21 is a bill put forth by Assembly Member Ash Karla which provides “Access to Higher Education for Every Student.” This bill specifically addresses the protection of undocumented students that attend all CSUs and Community Colleges across the state. The bill calls for colleges to refrain from releasing certain information regarding the immigration status of undocumented student or faculty, and requires faculty and staff to notify the campus chancellors or president if it is apparent that federal authorities will be coming onto campus. This bill is in full compliance with the law and does not require anyone to do anything except protect the students that have become most vulnerable in the current political climate.

The CSU serves approximately 8,000 undocumented students and we must preemptively put legal protections in place so that we do not find ourselves in a situation in which students are being rounded up on college campuses. We must act to protect these students from further alienation and fear that has spread throughout the country. The rhetoric that has been spread by the current administration has inevitably led to our many undocumented students meeting amplified racial discrimination outside of school, thus, it is the state’s responsibility to send a message to students that California will safeguard their information and status while on college campuses. No student should have to fear deportation while trying to better themselves through obtaining a proper education. A university education already offers students a promise of years of stress, hard work, and likely crushing debt in order to become a better member of their communities; adding on the fear of deportation for our undocumented community members is cruel and not conducive to a healthy learning environment. Please stand up for our undocumented students, make them feel safe to pursue an education and vote “Yes” on AB21.

Sincerely,

Students for Quality Education