

Dear Members of the Assembly,

On behalf of the students of the CSU, we would like to thank you for your continuing support for the public university system. As this system educates over 450,000 students across the state, your support is not just for the schools but also for the future generations of the California workforce. This letter is to urge you to continue to support students by voting “Yes” on Assembly Bill 393.

AB 393, also known as “The Student Protection Act”, has been introduced by Assembly Member Quirk-Silva and is a vital step towards protecting our students from further tuition increases that inevitably lead to rising debt and poverty. Tuition has increased by over 900% since 1985 and student debt across the nation is currently over 1.4 trillion dollars. At some point, the system must step in and stop selling out students who are trying to improve their lives. Our students’ budgets simply cannot afford continually rising tuition rates. A recent study has shown that the average CSU student works 20 hours a week or more while going to school yet 1 in 10 are homeless. Further, the average CSU student leaves school with over 18,000 dollars in debt. This system cannot sustain itself and it is an issue that will affect all the people of California, not just the students.

A “Yes” on AB 393 will halt the tuition increase proposed by CSU Chancellor White and the Board of Trustees. We need to address the rapidly-growing population of students who study for exams without homes and without food. The dream of achieving a college degree is what drives many of our students. They should not have to be forced into poverty in order to do so. We need to push Governor Brown to adequately fund our California Higher Education system. Students cannot bear the burdensome costs of a higher education any longer. The middle class is at stake. Our student’s families are at stake. We need to vote “Yes” on AB 393.

Obviously more must be done to protect future generations of students from this great state, but this is a good place to start. Please, stand up for students and vote “Yes” on AB 393.

Sincerely,

Students for Quality Education