



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 2010

An Affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Jason Rabinowitz

Secretary Treasurer and Principal Officer

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Senator
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

We write you today on behalf of the 14,000 members of Teamsters Local 2010, the union for Clerical, Administrative, and Skilled Trades workers in the University of California and California State University systems. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our members have done essential work ranging from keeping the lights on and water flowing for students who have had to remain on campus to checking in and scheduling patients for COVID-19 testing and treatment at the UC medical centers. In this time of crisis, our members have stepped up to continue serving UC and CSU students as well as the public, and now they are asking you to help ensure they can continue to do their critical work.

The UC and CSU systems perform essential services in the state of California, including providing instruction for a combined 767,000 students. In preparing future generations of students to be the next economic leaders, the universities are also critical to the state economy in the present. The UC has more than 227,000 employees, making it the third largest employer in California, and its operations support 460,000 jobs across the state. CSU employs nearly 53,000 faculty and staff and supports more than 150,000 jobs in the state through its operations and employee spending. On top of this, UC's five medical centers and numerous research facilities have been on the front lines of testing, treating, and researching treatments and vaccines for COVID-19 in California. To maintain the critical support the university systems provide to the economy both now and in the future along with their capacity to confront the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, it is essential that the next round of stimulus legislation include substantial direct support to California's higher education institutions and funding to offset state revenue losses.

Recently, UC President Janet Napolitano disclosed that the UC system has experienced more than \$500 million in cost increases and lost revenue in March alone while CSU has reported more than \$100 million in lost revenue in that time period. The American Council on Education (ACE) has projected that higher education enrollment could decline 15% in the next academic year. Governor Newsom has now revised his budget proposal to include a substantial 10% cut in support to UC and CSU in the absence of additional federal support. If these cuts were implemented, they could combine with existing losses and declines in enrollment to devastate higher education in California. We know from experience that the results of this would be skyrocketing tuition for already struggling students, greater unemployment, and a deeper and longer recession in California.


While we appreciate that the CARES Act has provided important relief to the UC and CSU systems, the totals under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund of approximately \$260 million for UC and \$525 million for CSU will not be enough to offset even the revenue losses and increased costs that will result from COVID-19 related disruptions through the end of the fiscal year. This is especially true since at least half of the CARES Act allocations are required to go to necessary emergency aid for students. However, the CARES Act does show that Congress can come together to provide needed support to higher education and state governments. **We join Governor Newsom and others across the country in calling on you to support the provisions in the recently introduced HEROES Act that provide and preserve desperately needed funding for state and local governments along with higher education.** Both parties can and must come together to prevent a repeat of the Great Recession.

Research has shown that following the 2007/8 financial crisis, cuts in state spending and layoffs of public employees undermined federal stimulus legislation and contributed to the depth of the ensuing recession and slow pace of recovery. Cuts to UC and CSU result in less demand for goods and services across the state and more people on already overcrowded unemployment rolls. It also means diminished future economic growth in California as students drop out or look elsewhere in the face of climbing tuitions and declining services during a pandemic. In the 4 years following the start of the 2007/8 financial crisis, UC increased resident undergraduate tuition by more than 92% and CSU by more than 97%, increases which were never reversed. It is not realistic to expect that universities could further drive up tuition in the face of declining enrollments and continue to adequately provide their essential services educating California students and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What our members ask is that you stand up for them and California the way they have stood up to continue serving our state in this time of crisis. To avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, it is essential that you and your colleagues take action to secure substantial funding for higher education and the state of California in line with what is proposed in the HEROES Act. We cannot afford to once again mortgage the future of our state. Our members are not asking for a bailout, they are just asking that they be allowed to continue doing their essential work serving the public.

We thank you for your work on these issues and ask that you follow up with us if you require more information or have questions.

Sincerely,



Jason Rabinowitz
Principal Officer and Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local 2010



Catherine Cobb
President
Teamsters Local 2010