



September 8, 2023

California Congressional Delegation

RE: Protect Federal Financial Aid for Higher Education

As the volunteer leadership of the Alumni Association of the University of California (AAUC) we are honored to represent nearly two million alumni, the majority of whom reside and work in California, contributing daily to the economic prosperity, diversity, and innovation of California and our nation. We urge you to protect those programs that support continued federal financial aid for higher education.

Our cause is timely, sensible, and straightforward. The University of California (UC) continues to positively impact not only our alumni and their families, but also the region and the nation. The UC consistently provides opportunities that would have otherwise been unachievable and unfathomable for its students. We want to ensure the UC continues to serve as an engine for social mobility and innovation for the state of California and the country. UC students go on to groundbreaking careers in healthcare, science, technology, agriculture, national security, education and the arts. UC benefits us all.

Federal Financial Aid programs ensure students from all over California and the nation can attend UC, the nation's leading public university, and receive the very best education from world renowned researchers and academic scholars. The UC system is regarded as comparable to the Ivy League Universities, but financial aid makes UC far more accessible and attainable. There are currently proposed cuts to critical federal financial aid programs, and we want you keep in mind the students and the communities that these proposed cuts will impact:

- Nearly 10,000 UC students receive Federal Work Study (FWS) to work attending college
- Nearly 20,000 UC students receive Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- 35% of UC Students receive the Federal Pell Grant
- 37% of UC Students are first-generation students
- 27% of UC Students are community college transfer students
- The UC serves 230,000 undergrads and 64,000 graduate students across 10 campuses
- 5 UC campuses are federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) and 25% of UC students identify as Hispanic/Latino(a)

And, thanks to Federal and California State Financial Aid programs in combination with generous philanthropic support, 55 percent of UC undergraduates pay no tuition, and California undergraduates whose family income is under \$80,000 pay no tuition. Federal Financial Aid programs like Pell, FWS and FSEOG are critical to UC being accessible. Ensuring equity and social mobility are at the core of these programs.

We thank you for your service to our country, and we ask you to support students in California and across the country who rely on Federal Financial Aid to better their lives.

Fiat Lux,

Handwritten signature of Joel Raznik in black ink.

Joel Raznik
He, Him, His
President, AAUC
UC Santa Barbara '81

Handwritten signature of Keith Ellis in black ink.

Keith Ellis, Ed.D.
He, Him, His
Vice President, AAUC
UC Merced '12, UC Davis '22

Handwritten signature of Alfonso Salazar in black ink.

Alfonso Salazar
El, Ellos
Secretary, AAUC
UC Berkeley

Handwritten signature of Geoffrey Pack in black ink.

Geoffrey Pack
He, Him, His
Treasurer, AAUC
UC Riverside '78