



University of California Student Association
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A Future We All Deserve: Advocating for Student Opportunity & Well-Being 2026 UC Hill Day Leave-Behind | Washington, D.C.

ABOUT UCSA

The University of California Student Association (UCSA) is the official representative voice for over 230,000 undergraduate students across the University of California system to the Board of Regents, Office of the President, and our state and federal policymakers. UCSA has spent 50 years working to achieve education equity through collective student power by advocating for the *affordability*, *accessibility* and *quality* of a higher education for current and future UC students.

2026 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA

Our federal advocacy priorities outlined below are laser-focused on student basic needs and affordability, student safety and well-being, and funding programs that increase opportunity for millions of students across the country to pursue a higher education regardless of their background or zip code. Last September, UCSA submitted a Congressional Appropriations letter outlining our fiscal requests for agency funding, and engaged heavily in the Budget Reconciliation process from March through July elevating similar requests. **We continue to seek the following from Congress:**

COLLEGE ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

- ❖ **Fund the Pell Grant Program:** Protect and increase the maximum *Pell Grant* award, adjusted to inflation to aid our low-income students with higher education access & reduce student debt burdens, and close the \$16.9 Billion Pell Grant shortfall in FY2027.
- ❖ **Safeguard Work-Study, SEOG, TRIO, & CCAMPIS:** Fully fund the federal *Work-Study program* to ensure students have on-campus employment opportunities that help offset college costs while building professional skills & experience. Preserve & strengthen the *Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)*, a need-based aid program supporting vulnerable student enrollment & increasing degree attainment, protect funding for *TRIO Programs* for low-income/first-generation students with academic support, & hold accountable crucial *CCAMPIS grants* for student parents to access to affordable, quality child-care services.

PROTECTING & SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

- ❖ **Stop Enabling ICE's Deadly Operations:** Oppose any additional funds for ICE and CBP Border Patrol so as to cease funding operations that assault local communities and bring fear and uncertainty to students.
- ❖ **Protect Immigrant Student Safety & Well-Being:** Listen to and amplify immigrant student voices as they express safety concerns, and do your due diligence to engage with local communities to ensure steps are being taken to address their concerns (e.g., talk to constituents, host townhalls, visit ICE detention facilities, research and understand what international students are going through).

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For inquiries, contact Government Relations Director Vincent Rasso at govrelations@ucsa.org or 916-442-8280.



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FREE SPEECH, CAMPUS CLIMATE & EQUITY PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Address Attacks on Academic Freedom, DEI, and Equity Programs:** Oppose the silencing of critical conversations in academia and campus programs that contribute to the rise in anti-intellectualism, lack of funding and support for essential student retention programs, and increasingly tense campus climates that affects students' well-being and sense of safety and belonging. Students and faculty should be able to have robust and thought-provoking academic conversations inside the classroom in order to become civically engaged and socially responsible members of society.
- ❖ **Preserve Student Speech & Activism:** Reinforce protections for students to be able to exercise their right to free speech on campus. Students should feel represented and safe to engage in activism, especially exercising their First Amendment right to assembly.

INVEST IN RESEARCH & EQUITY PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Invest in Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Equity in Research:** Increase targeted research capacity-building investments in MSIs—which every UC campus is designated—to support community-based health research, STEM initiatives, & faculty-led projects that address pressing social and scientific challenges.
- ❖ **Safeguard Research Funding:** Oppose weaponizing critical thought & equity-centered programs against life-saving research. Research conducted at the UC has led to treatments for cancer, heart disease, and organ transplants, yet in the past months, federal actions have threatened to withhold essential research dollars from universities.

UCSA SUPPORT BILLS

- ❖ **H.R.2627 (Foster):** Keep STEM Talent Act of 2025 - *HIGH SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.R.3543 (Jayapal):** College for All Act of 2025 - *SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.R.5938 (Cleaver):** Innovation Fund Act - *SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.R.6502 (McClain):** College Financial Aid Clarity Act of 2025 - *SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.R. 6718 (Lawler):** Professional Student Degree Act - *HIGH SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.R.3543 (Jayapal):** College for All Act of 2025 - *SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.R.6358 (Frankel):** Veterans Education Empowerment Act - *SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.RES. 876 (Tlaib):** Recognizing the genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza - *HIGH SUPPORT*
- ❖ **H.R. 7810 (Thompson) or H.R. 2003 (Lawler):** Lowering Student Loans - *HIGH SUPPORT*

UCSA OPPOSITION BILLS

- ❖ **H.R.7296 (Roy):** SAVE America Act - *HIGH OPPOSE*
- ❖ **H.R.3518 (Murphy):** Prohibits graduate medical schools from receiving federal financial assistance if schools adopt diversity, equity, & inclusion policies - *HIGH OPPOSE*

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