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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**JANET NGUYEN**  
THIRTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
BUDGET & FISCAL  
REVIEW  
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE  
VICE CHAIR  
HEALTH  
VICE CHAIR  
HUMAN SERVICES  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

March 21, 2017

Rebecca D. Eisen, Chair  
The California State University Board of Trustees  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Chair Eisen:

The California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees is expected to vote on a proposal that would raise tuition costs by five percent for CSU undergraduate students at its March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, a decision that will impact more than 479,000 students.

Throughout the State of California, students and families are already struggling to pay for the rising costs of higher education including tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation and housing. These costs often result in mounting student debt, a problem that, compounded with soaring housing costs, poses significant economic hurdles for students pursuing a higher education.

A student attending CSU Long Beach who lives with their parents can expect to pay a little over \$16,000 a year in tuition and living expenses; a sum that would be difficult for any student to pay. Unfortunately, there are some students who face even more dire economic conditions as evidenced by recent studies revealing that an estimated one in ten CSU students are homeless, while one in five do not have steady access to enough food. These statistics are illustrative of a great financial need that exists within the CSU student population; a need that would only be exacerbated by the proposed tuition hike.

By raising the tuition on CSU students, the Board would place a greater strain on an already burdened student population, further threatening the accessibility to a higher education for hundreds of thousands of California students.

Throughout its history, the CSU system has prided itself on providing affordable access to a college degree for students from diverse and underserved communities, many of whom are first-generation college students. In this spirit, I respectfully request that the Board of Trustees stand with the students of the Cal State University System and oppose the proposed tuition hikes.

CSU Board of Trustees  
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Thank you very much for your attention to this issue. If I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [janet.nguyen@sen.ca.gov](mailto:janet.nguyen@sen.ca.gov) or (714) 741-1034.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Nguyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

JANET NGUYEN  
Senator, Thirty-Fourth District  
California State Legislature

CC: Mr. Silas Abrego, Trustee  
Ms. Jane W. Carney, Trustee  
Mr. Adam Day, Vice Chair  
Mr. Douglas Faigin, Trustee  
Ms. Debra S. Farar, Trustee  
Ms. Jean P. Firstenberg, Trustee  
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