

California Faculty Association

2008 CFA-Sponsored and Priority Legislation *Final Legislative Actions*

- **SB 1322 (Alan Lowenthal-D) – Co-Sponsor**
Loyalty Oath: Religious Exemptions

*Status: **Vetoed by Governor** (see attached veto message)*

Provides public employees a religious exemption to the state's "loyalty oath" (e.g. supporting "non-violence") as long as their objection to the oath is unrelated to their willingness and ability to uphold the Constitution and other state laws. Also deletes redundant statutes penalizing employees for membership in the Communist Party.

- **SB 1370 (Leland Yee-D) – Co-Sponsor**
Protection of Student Free Speech Rights

*Status: **Signed Into Law***

Prohibits disciplinary action against high school and college journalism teachers, and other campus personnel, who act to protect the free speech rights of students – especially student journalists.

- **SB 1611 (Gloria Negrete McLeod-D) – Sponsor**
CalPERS Service Credit for Reduced Pay Leave

*Status: **Held in Senate Appropriations Committee***

Allows CSU faculty and administration to rectify, through the collective bargaining process, a CalPERS service credit penalty that negatively impacts CSU academic employees who receive a reduced service credit when working full-time for a reduced salary (e.g. sabbatical leave), thus allowing faculty to receive full service credit for reduced pay leaves. SB 1611 had CSU-estimated costs exceeding \$630,000/year.

- **SB 1696 (Leland Yee-D) – Co-Sponsor**
Public Records Act Disclosure

*Status: **Signed Into Law***

Requires the disclosure of public information – information that is commonly available under the CA Public Records Act – even if the information is part of a contractual agreement between a private entity and a state or local agency.

Other CFA-Priority Legislation

- **AB 591 (Mervyn Dymally-D) – Support**
Faculty Teaching Part-Time at Community Colleges

*Status: **Signed Into Law***

Increases the allowable workload of community college part-time faculty not seeking tenure from 60 percent to 67 percent, thereby allowing these faculty to teach additional courses at a single campus. Many CSU faculty also teach at community colleges, and AB 591 will better ensure these faculty receive teaching opportunities that will lessen their need to travel to multiple campuses to piece together a full-time teaching load.

- **AB 1831 (Tony Mendoza-D) – Support**
Affordable Housing for K-University Faculty

*Status: **Held in Senate Appropriations Committee***

Investigates and reports on available programs in CA and elsewhere – including an analysis regarding the feasibility of replicating such programs – that assist K-University faculty in obtaining affordable housing.

- **AB 2083 (Fabian Núñez-D) – Support**
SB 1301 (Gil Cedillo-D) – Support
Student Financial Aid Eligibility

*Status: **(AB 2083) Held in Senate Appropriations Committee**
(SB 1301) Vetoed by Governor (see attached veto message)*

Expands the availability of institutional financial aid to students eligible for nonresident tuition status under AB 540 (Firebaugh). Students with immigrant status who have complied with AB 540's provisions – graduated from a California high school and are actively seeking citizenship – would be eligible to receive institutional financial aid.

- **AB 2838 (Mike Duvall-R) – Support**
Purchase of PERS Service Credit: Serious Illness

*Status: **Signed Into Law***

Allows a PERS member who takes an uncompensated leave of absence due to serious illness the ability to purchase service credit – once they return to their employment – for the period they were absent.

- **AB 2842 (Patty Berg-D) – Support**
Healthcare Solicitation: Unfair Business Practices

*Status: **Signed Into Law***

Makes it an unfair business practice to sell healthcare coverage using cold lead advertising, by failing to fully disclose the intent in a conspicuous manner, or using an appointment to discuss a Medicare product to sell non-Medicare healthcare coverage.

- **ABX3 20 (Audra Strickland-R) – Oppose**
Restrictions on State Benefits

*Status: **Held in Assembly Rules Committee***

Requires individuals over the age of 18, as a condition of eligibility, to provide evidence of their U.S. citizenship or lawful residence when applying to a government entity for a public benefit funded by state monies.

- **ACA 16 (Alberto Torrico-D) – Support**
Public Higher Education Funding Stability

*Status: **Held in Assembly Higher Education Committee***

If approved by voters in a statewide election – would establish stable funding levels for the CSU and UC systems.

- **SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl-D) – Support**
Single Payer Healthcare

*Status: **Vetoed by Governor** (see attached veto message)*

Creates a single payer health care system to provide health insurance coverage to every Californian. Numerous studies have shown that long-term savings from this bill will exceed billions of dollars, and will more than compensate for any increased costs.

- **SB 890 (Jack Scott-D) – Support**
Early Commitment to College Program

*Status: **Signed Into Law***

Establishes the *Early Commitment to College* program to improve college opportunities for low-income students; increases high school completion and college attendance rates – especially for students attending schools with the greatest poverty – by providing increased motivation and assistance that is all too absent at impoverished schools.

- **SB 1355 (Ellen Corbett-D) – Support**

Postsecondary Education: Private Student Loans Disclosure

*Status: **Vetoed by Governor** (see attached veto language)*

Requires higher education institutions, when appropriate, to disclose to students the differences in student loans from private and public vendors. Differences include costs, interest rates, additional fees and whether the student loans are federally guaranteed.

- **SB 1457 (Darrell Steinberg-D) – Support**

Golden Share Scholarshare Trust Act: CalSAVE Program

*Status: **Signed Into Law***

Creates a CalSAVE program within the existing state Scholarshare program to fund individual higher education scholarship accounts for beneficiaries who don't have a designated guardian or sponsor.

- **SB 1505 (Leland Yee-D) – Support**

Whistleblower Protection Act

*Status: **Vetoed by Governor** (see attached veto message)*

Expands the application of the state Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA) to former state employees and expedite the resolution of pending cases.

- **SB 1661 (Sheila Kuehl-D) – Support**

Family Leave: Unemployment Compensation

*Status: **Vetoed by Governor** (see attached veto message)*

Allows individuals who are terminated from employment as a result of taking Paid Family Leave to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

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CFA-Priority Legislation

Governor's Veto Messages

- **SB 1322** (Lowenthal) **Loyalty Oath: Religious Exemptions**

“Many Californians have fled communist regimes, immigrated to the United States and sought freedom in our nation because of the human rights abuses perpetuated in other parts of the world. It is important particularly for those people that California maintains the protections of current law. Therefore, I see no compelling reason to change the law that maintains our responsibility to ensure that public resources are not used for purposes of overthrowing the U.S. or state government, or for communist activities.”

- **SB 1301** (Cedillo) **Student Financial Aid Eligibility**

“I share the author's goal of making affordable education available to all California students, but given the precarious fiscal condition the state faces at this time, it would not be prudent to place additional demands on our limited financial aid resources as specified in this bill.”

- **SB 840** (Kuehl) **Single Payer Healthcare**

“According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the bill is estimated to cost \$210 billion in its first full year of implementation and cause annual shortfalls of \$42 billion. To place this in proper perspective - our state budget deficit this year started at \$24.3 billion. I cannot support a bill that places an annual shortfall of over \$40 billion to our state's economy.”

- **SB 1355** (Corbett) **Private Student Loans Disclosure**

“This bill would require public and private postsecondary education institutions to disclose specified information regarding the terms of private loans and federal loans in specified financial aid materials. However, recently enacted federal legislation (H.R. 4137) makes changes to the Federal Family Education Loan program, requiring more comprehensive lender disclosures and consumer education of students and families than this bill, particularly as budgeting and financial management relates to student loan programs. The federal legislation also imposes new restrictions on private lenders and education institutions in order to address concerns related to unfair lending practices and conflicts of interest. Therefore, given the comprehensive nature of the federal reforms recently enacted, I am unable to sign this bill at this time.”

- **SB 1505** (Yee) **Whistleblower Protection Act**

“The historic delay in passing the 2008-2009 State Budget has forced me to prioritize the bills sent to my desk at the end of the year's legislative session. Given the delay, I am only signing bills that are the highest priority for California. This bill does not meet that standard and I cannot sign it at this time.”

- **SB 1661** (Kuehl) **Family Leave: Unemployment Compensation**

“This bill would provide that a person is eligible for unemployment if he or she loses his job while they are on paid family leave. When the paid family leave program was created in 2003, job protections provided for other types of leave were intentionally left out of paid family leave. This bill creates a backdoor to such protections and would disproportionately impact small businesses at a time of economic uncertainty. In addition, this bill would place additional strains on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a time that fund is facing solvency issues.”