CFA-sponsored bill protecting undocu-scholars passes Senate

A CFA-sponsored bill that aims to safeguard undocumented students, faculty, and staff in California’s public universities from harmful federal immigration policies has passed the state Legislature.

Assembly Bill 21, authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra, was approved by the Senate in a 29-8 vote Tuesday. The bill passed the Assembly in June.

On Tuesday, students and faculty rallied at the Capitol and held a news conference call at CFA headquarters in Sacramento, where they encouraged legislators to pass the bill, and Gov. Jerry Brown to sign it into law.

The bill will be taken up this week by the Assembly for a concurrence vote on amendments, then heads to Gov. Brown.

“The educators of the California Faculty Association have fought to make our public California State University system the most inclusive higher education system in the world. As on so many issues that affect immigrant families, California paved the way for our undocumented students to get full access to public colleges and universities,” said CFA President Jennifer Eagan.
“These gains remain under threat from 45’s administration and some of his red state confederates. We’re not going to let them diminish the supportive community and strong economy that we have built here in California. The faculty is seriously fierce and standing right behind our students and colleagues.”

Dr. Margarita Berta-Ávila, a Professor of Education at Sacramento State University and president of the CFA Capitol Chapter said changes to federal immigration policy have rattled campus communities throughout the state.

“AB 21 is the institutional support we need to ensure all students, faculty, and staff—regardless of immigration status—may continue to pursue education and teaching free from intimidation and risk of loss of access,” Berta-Ávila said. “History teaches us that movements in the US and across the world are successful when those who have nothing to lose stand up, speak, mobilize, at whatever our capacity is to do so – and refuse to take on the role of bystanders. As members of this society and community, this is the moment to not be that bystander.”

The bill’s language and focus was inspired in large part by CFA’s unwavering support of undocumented students, colleagues, staff, and their families. Bill author Kalra, himself an immigrant, introduced the legislation the first day he took office in the Assembly.

“It is in this country’s best interest as a nation of immigrants to ensure that those who pursue educational and academic growth may further contribute to the productivity of this great state and nation,” Kalra said.

The bill would require the CSU and state community colleges to extend protections and resources to undocumented students, faculty, staff, and their families, and ensures that students with DACA status have access to financial aid, legal representation, and their constitutional right to due process. The bill requests the same of the University of California.

At the Tuesday news conference, Kalra announced that Gov. Jerry Brown, Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon agreed to provide $30 million in legal assistance for those covered under the DACA program. Two-thirds of the money will fund immigration legal services under a statewide program, while the remaining funding will be reserved for students enrolled in California community colleges and state universities.

The news drew applause from students, faculty, and supporters in the room.

The bill is supported by the CSU, UC, California Community Colleges, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and many more.

• Click here to watch the news conference call.
• Click here to view a photo gallery of the rally and news event.
• Click here for more information about AB 21.

CalPERS Open Enrollment is here!

The open enrollment period for those covered by CalPERS health plans is underway—if you decide to make changes, don’t delay.
The Open Enrollment period runs from Sept. 11 through Oct. 6. During that time, members can change their health plan, add eligible dependents, remove dependents, cancel existing CalPERS health coverage, and enroll in a CalPERS health plan if they are not currently enrolled in CalPERS health coverage.

Click here for CalPERS Health Open Enrollment 2017.

Changes made during Open Enrollment take effect Jan. 1, 2018.

In an article for “California Faculty” magazine—which will be arriving on campuses shortly—CFA Retired Faculty Committee Chair George Diehr provides a comprehensive overview of CalPERS health benefits and information.

Click here to read more about understanding your CalPERS health plan.

info meetings on contract negotiations to begin

As the CFA Bargaining Team gets ready to bargain with CSU management over the faculty contract this week in Oakland, campus CFA chapters are preparing for information meetings to start next week.

Please plan on attending your chapter’s meeting on campus, and learn more about what’s at stake with this next full successor contract and what we’re fighting for.

CFA Bargaining Team members will be there to discuss ideas for negotiations, and listen to members’ concerns.

Next week, information meetings are being held Monday, Sept. 18 at Monterey Bay and San Bernardino.

Click here for a listing of meetings by campus.

Faculty Rights Tip: Reimbursement for Campus Counselor Licensing Fees

Article 25.5 of our Faculty Contract provides a way for Counselor Faculty to be reimbursed for all normal or customary credential or licensing fees that they need to maintain.
It states:

*With the prior approval of the President, Counselor Faculty Unit Employees who are required to maintain a license or credential as a condition of employment, shall be reimbursed for all normal and customary credential or licensing fees consistent with program needs. Any denial shall include a written explanation.*

We encourage Counselor Faculty to seek approval from your local Campus President for reimbursement of any fees required for renewals of your professionally required licenses or credentials.

If you are denied reimbursement, the administration must provide a written explanation for the denial. We want to hear from you if you receive such denials. Please contact CFA immediately if your campus president refuses to reimburse you for licensing fees that you are required to have to maintain employment in the CSU.

If you would like to learn more about Faculty Rights or have a faculty rights question, contact your faculty rights representative.

- See [previous Faculty Rights Tips](#) on a range of topics in our contract.
- If you have questions about a faculty rights tip or would like to suggest a tip please write us with the subject line “Faculty Rights Tip.”

**In Other News**

**IMMIGRATION RESOURCES:** We’ve updated the CFA website to include a new page, “Immigration & the CSU.” There, you’ll find information and resources for immigrants and those helping members of our undocumented communities. Download and print a “Know Your Rights” card, find links to FAQs and more: [https://www.calfac.org/immigration-csu](https://www.calfac.org/immigration-csu)

**DACA RENEWAL WORKSHOP (NORCAL):** A collaboration of city, community, and local organizations in San Francisco are hosting a free [DACA renewal workshop](#) from 1-5 pm Saturday, Sept. 23 at Mission High School, 3750 18th St, San Francisco.

Get help with completing the application, information on immigrant rights, legal consultations, and fee assistance to help cover the cost of application fees. RSVPs are encouraged — [click here to register](#). Event information can be found [here](#).

The event is hosted by the SF Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs, SF Immigrant Legal & Education Network (SFILEN), Mission Asset Fund, and Mission High School/SF Unified School District. They also are looking for volunteers to help during the workshop. [Click here to volunteer](#).

**EXTRA EXTRA:** The American Association of University Professors’ (AAUP) newest [Academe](#) magazine is a must-read this fall. The September/October issue, “In the Crosshairs,” includes articles on faculty rights in the classroom, legal cases impacting higher education, and more. Downloading the magazine is a perk of membership, which is free for CFA members. [Join AAUP today!](#) [Click here](#) for more info about the latest edition of Academe.
Links of the Week

When it comes to affordable college education, conservative Tennessee has so-called progressive California beat
LA Times
California’s Democratic politicians and activists talk big about being so-called progressives. But on one thing, they’re downright reactionary when compared with hard-right Tennessee.

What it feels like when a professor’s comments ignite a fury
Washington Post
The response was swift, ferocious, scary even. Johnny Eric Williams, a sociology professor in Hartford, Conn., had written in charged language on his personal Facebook page using a profane hashtag. His words, he said, were a reaction to police shootings and violence against black people. It did not take long for the bombast to begin surging in.

Academic Senate passes resolution to support Dreamers at CSUF
Daily Titan
The Academic Senate broke into applause after they unanimously passed a resolution to continue supporting Dreamers at Cal State Fullerton Thursday.

UC sues Trump administration for shutting down DACA, which UC’s president helped create
LA Times
The University of California sued the Trump administration Friday for rescinding protections for immigrant students without legal status, saying the action unconstitutionally violates their rights on “nothing more than unreasoned executive whim.”

California State University Chancellor Raises Concerns About End of DACA
National Public Radio
The CSU system is home to the highest number of DACA students in the country.

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