

Revised Draft (4/14/23)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CSU COUNSELING FACULTY AND APPROPRIATE COUNSELING CARE FOR CSU STUDENTS

WHEREAS, The United States has seen an increase in anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation in multiple states, especially from the years 2015 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, The state of California has a long record of supporting the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons in various ways, including passing legislation (AB 1887, January 2017) whose sole purpose was to "take action to avoid supporting or financing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people" (Gov. Code, § 11139.8, subd. (a)(5). See <https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887>.) AB 1887 prohibited using California State monies to travel to states with the most egregious anti-LGBTQIA legislation); and

WHEREAS, The state of California continues to support the rights and flourishing of LGBTQIA+ persons, in that Senator Toni Atkins has introduced legislation (SB 447) that would evolve California's efforts to further LGTBTQIA+ safety and rights in other states by ending the travel ban of AB 1887 and instead establishing the "Building and Reinforcing Inclusive, Diverse, Gender-Supportive Equity Project" (BRIDGE Project) to promote social equity, civil rights, and antidiscrimination through marketing and advertising campaigns on a national scale and also targeting audiences in states that have enacted statutes contrary to the rights and flourishing of LGBTQIA+ persons; and

WHEREAS, SB 447 is an improvement on SB 1887, since travel bans may reduce scholarship and research opportunities for scholars who are Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color, LGBTQIA+; may reduce the dissemination of valuable scholarship to such areas; and does nothing to recognize the sovereign Indigenous nations that may be negatively impacted by, and are not responsible for, the anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation passed by the settler colonial state that has stolen their lands; and

WHEREAS, some CSU campuses, in violation of California Labor Law and continued strenuous objection from CFA, are currently outsourcing Psychological Counseling Services to an app-based organization based in Texas called TimelyMD (also referred to as TimelyCare), and Texas is one of the most egregiously offensive legislative climates for LGBTQIA+ individuals in the nation (and was on the "no travel" list); and

WHEREAS, TimelyMD has strong affiliations with the CCCU (Council of Christian Colleges and Universities), which specifically advocates against LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and with CCCU's "Religious Freedom Toolkit," which includes videos disparaging the inclusion of trans and gender non-binary persons in education and goes so far as intimating that the state of California is imposing dangerous "gender ideology" on our students (see <https://www.cccu.org/advocacy/> and also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPYTOVHmiik>); and

WHEREAS, psychological counselors in the CSU are generally underpaid in comparison to employment outside the university, many have little option for permanent CSU employment, and many CSUs fail to meet the minimum standard counselor to student ratios; and

WHEREAS, meeting the healthcare needs of CSU students in the present and ongoing mental health crisis is crucial to the mission of the CSU and can only be met by adequately staffing and compensating CSU counselors; and

WHEREAS, California State Senator Caroline Menjivar and Senator Henry Stern have authored SB 11, which addresses psychological counselor staffing needs in the CSU and calls for employment of qualified professionals in our communities (see <https://trackbill.com/bill/california-senate-bill-11-california-state-university-mental-health-counseling/2282351/>); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that CFA demands that CSU cease outsourcing psychological counseling labor to Texas-based TimelyMD or any similar company and instead employ CSU Counselors for psychological services throughout the CSU; be it further

RESOLVED, that CFA demands that the CSU system advocate for legislative passage of both SB 11 and SB 447, and for gubernatorial signature, for the good of CSU students, especially our minorized students including those that are Black, Chicanx/Latinx, Indigenous, Asian Pacific Island, and Desi American, and/or LGBTQIA+; and be it finally

RESOLVED, consistent with SB 11, that CFA urge the CSU to hire sufficient tenure-line counselor faculty, with special attention made to hire Counselors from communities that have been historically excluded and to align each CSU with professional recommendations including counselor-to-student ratios of 1:1000-1:1500.