



February 27, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1  
1021 O Street, Suite 8720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Alvarez  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3  
1021 O Street, Suite 5320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Governor’s Proposed 2025-2026 State Budget – California State University Funding**

Dear Senator Wiener and Assemblymember Gabriel,

On behalf of the below signed labor organizations, collectively representing more than 75,000 employees across 14 bargaining units at the California State University (CSU), including faculty, staff, and student workers, we write with urgency to request that you partner with us to ensure that the 2025-2026 State budget has stable funding, robust legislative oversight, and clear legislative direction for CSU.

At the outset, we would like to thank you for your leadership in supporting higher education in recent years. Base increases, including the commitment to the compact, have been essential to the CSU’s ability to support both students and employees. Not only do these increases facilitate the wide range of quality programs that make CSU California’s premier higher education institution that reached every part of our state, but they also support our efforts to bargain competitive, living wages for faculty, non-faculty staff, and student workers.

With these issues in mind, we respectfully urge you to reconsider the 7.95% reduction contained in the proposed 2025-2026 state budget and to assess the compact deferral to the 2027-2028 state budget. We deeply appreciate the Governor and Legislature’s commitment to fully funding the compact but think it will be appropriate to consider whether the deferral is needed. With regard to the 7.95% proposed reduction, major cuts to the CSU’s budget will have a devastating impact on our collective progress. Unfortunately, some CSU campuses are already taking action to reduce expenditures, including major proposed layoffs at Sonoma State and CSU Dominguez Hills, a foreshadowing of the impacts of this proposed cut. At the January CSU Board of Trustees meeting, the CSU reported that the CSU workforce has already decreased by 823 positions; further cuts will result in job loss and a reduction in support/services for CSU students.

We also would like to partner with you to ensure robust oversight of the CSU. While faculty and non-faculty staff are experiencing cuts and layoffs, management positions continue to grow, something that must be assessed to understand how discretionary choices made by the CSU are supporting its mission. Oversight will be critical to ensure all programs are being implemented in a manner that is consistent with legislative intent, supports students, and supports the hard-working represented employees of the CSU.

Finally, it is critical that the legislature provide clear direction to the CSU to make sure that the University maintains its commitments to its employees and its students.

The CSU's success relies upon the talents and work of its employees. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to ensure that the CSU is subject to oversight, properly funded, and implementing programs consistent with legislative intent.

Sincerely,

Academic Professional of California  
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO  
California Faculty Association  
California State University Employees Union  
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council  
SEIU California State Council  
Statewide University Police Association  
United Auto Workers Local 4123  
Union of American Physicians and Dentists, AFSCME Local 206