



California Legislature

September 29, 2023

Chancellor Mildred García
California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Chair Wenda Fong
Board of Trustees, California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Student Assistants Election Agreement with California State University Employees Union

As California State University (CSU) campuses gear up to welcome students this fall, we wish to underscore with great urgency the vital need to promptly address the process enabling CSU Student Assistants (SA) to formalize an election agreement with CSU Employees Union (CSUEU) for union representation. These approximately 15,000 dedicated SAs, who contribute significantly to the functioning of CSU campuses throughout our state, are taking the initiative to form a union in pursuit of better wages and improved working conditions. It is imperative that they have the opportunity to engage in a swift and equitable election process.

SAs often do the same kind of work as union staff members but don't receive the same pay and benefits because they're not officially represented by a union. Even though their work is vital for campus operations, student employees can't engage in collective bargaining like other CSU workers.

As a publicly funded institution of higher learning, with the unique capacity to pave the way for a diverse array of students, the Chancellor's Office has a prime opportunity to endorse our youthful workforce's singular request: to secure a place at the labor table and actively contribute to these important discussions.

SAs skillfully balance the demands of both work and academics to meet essential expenses like tuition, food, and housing. The collective bargaining process holds the potential to tackle several substantial obstacles that may hinder the academic success of student employees. These challenges encompass, but are not limited to, concerns such as insufficient minimum wages, a restrictive 20-hour cap on campus employment, and the absence of provisions for sick leave, holiday pay, or compensation during jury duty.

The unionization efforts by SAs are currently being mediated by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). We understand the CSUEU and the CSU have come to an agreement on the eligibility of who is able to vote in the pending election. This is a positive development as there is overwhelming support among the SAs, thousands of whom have signed their union authorization cards to join the CSUEU bargaining units.

We respectfully urge the Chancellor's Office and Board of Trustees to cooperate with PERB and enter into an election agreement with CSUEU for union representation. We understand that CSU can expedite the process, so delaying the process to enter into an election will only harm this invaluable workforce that deserves to be supported.

We look forward to working with CSU and the CSUEU on this groundbreaking effort for SAs to bargain with a collective voice.

Sincerely,



ASH KALRA
Assemblymember, 25th District



DAVE CORTESE
Senator, 15th District



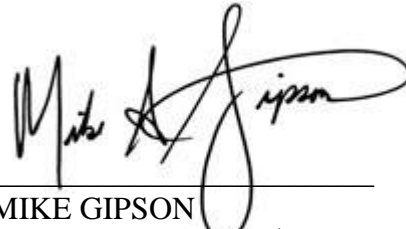
MIA BONTA
Assemblymember, 18th District



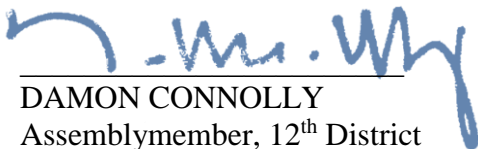
EDUARDO GARCIA
Assemblymember, 36th District



WENDY CARRILLO
Assemblymember, 52nd District



MIKE GIPSON
Assemblymember, 65th District



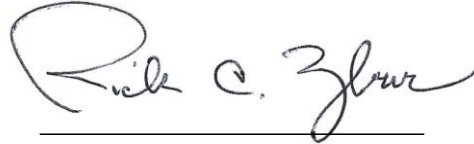
DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, 12th District




DR. COREY JACKSON
Assemblymember, 60th District



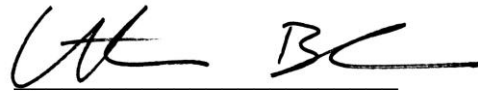
REGINALD JONES-SAWYER
Assemblymember, 57th District



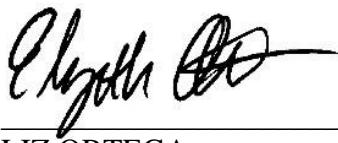
RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
Assemblymember, 51st District



TINA MCKINNOR
Assemblymember, 61st District



CATHERINE BLAKESPEAR
Senator, 38th District



LIZ ORTEGA
Assemblymember, 20th District



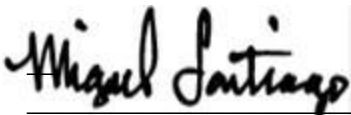
ANTHONY PORTANTINO
Senator, 25th District



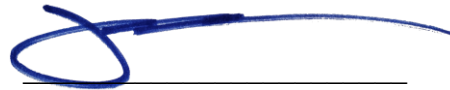
FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
Assemblymember, 53rd District



CAROLINE MENJIVAR
Senator, 20th District



MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assemblymember, 54th District



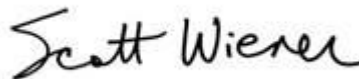
JOSH NEWMAN
Senator, 29th District



LORI WILSON
Assemblymember, 11th District



THOMAS UMBERG
Senator, 34th District



SCOTT WIENER
Senator, 11th District