

Write/Email Your Policymakers

Across the state, and throughout the Southern California region, students and their families are organizing to fight the proposed Cal Grant cuts. They are writing their legislators, the Governor, and telling their friends and families how the cuts could impact the taxpaying public. Most Californians agree that some sacrifices and changes can be made to balance the state's deficit, but not cuts to education!

Personal messages and concerns may be sent to a policymaker's email address. Key policymakers that need to hear from you are the Governor, key committee members, and your district legislators. A list of those emails follows.

Key Points

As you write, keep in mind that your passion and personal experiences are what will help move a policymaker to action, or convince or influence him or her. It is important, as always, to be polite and respectful in tone.

Things to include:

1. The focus of your letter (an action statement informing your legislator what you want done)
2. Reference the Governor's proposed Cal Grant cuts
3. Your credentials or why you have special knowledge about the issue or why you care ("I am a Cal Grant student.")
4. Major consequences of the proposed legislation, how it impacts you
5. Rationale for your point of view (facts and statistics)
6. Observations, personal anecdotes, or concrete examples supporting your rationales (What will happen to you if you do not receive the award gift, as originally promised to you?)
7. A reiteration of what you want the policymaker to do (Retain current Cal Grant maximum levels)
8. The effects that the proposed budget action will have on constituents (not just you)
9. A request for your legislator's response to you personally (you are entitled to this information)

If you would like to write your personal legislator, and aren't sure how to reach him or her, visit: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> and enter your Zip code. You can write to the policymaker for both your home and your school legislative districts.

Facts about the proposed Cal Grants cuts

How the cuts hurt students and their families

- Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal, released in January, would cut \$110 million from the state's Cal Grant system for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- It will mean that those students who requalify for Cal Grant awards for the 2012-2013 school year would receive \$4,236 less. The cuts would impact both current recipients (returning students for next year) and new recipients (incoming freshmen and transfer students).
- This \$4,236 less per student represents a 44% cut in the Cal Grant award.

- Parents, already juggling to accommodate increases in tuition, would be hit doubly hard—some of the state’s most deserving students may be at risk of losing their chance at a college education.

How the cuts hurt the University of Redlands

- 556 students at the University of Redlands alone, or 23% of our student population, could be affected. Students at more than 70 independent, non-profit colleges and universities would also be impacted.
- The Cal Grant award amount for private colleges and universities has not been increased for several years, since 2001. Private, or independent non-profit institutions, like the University of Redlands have been basically “making up” the difference as tuition (and costs) have increased during this period.
- Independent, non-profit universities and colleges provide the essential capacity to accommodate the students that the state’s universities, or public schools, cannot enroll due to their limited capacity. California’s public universities are at enrollment capacity. A cut to Cal Grants could limit the ability of the University of Redlands to enroll transfer students, or any student who depends on Cal Grants to attend college.
- Most independent, non-profit universities do not have the resources to offset the costs the Governor and the state propose to take away from students. The University of Redlands already gives \$2 in University grants for every \$1 in taxpayer grant aid that students enrolled at our school receive, with the average university grant representing more than \$19,000 as part of the student Financial Aid package.

How the cuts hurt California

- The proposed Cal Grant cuts hurts students and their families, AND the effects of the cut could have drastic affects for the whole state, especially if California is going to meet its workforce demands. The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) estimates that by 2025, California will be short one million educated workers.
- It costs the state of California \$24,000 to educate a Cal Grant student for one year at a UC school; \$11,750 for one year at CSU; and \$6,100 for one year at a Community College. It now costs California less than \$9,200 for a Cal Grant student for one year at an independent, non-profit university, according to the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (figures from Legislative Analysis Office, or “LAO” for the 2011-12 academic year).
- Students at independent, non-profit universities repay their Cal Grant awards through state income tax within 15 years. CSU Cal Grant students repay four years of a CSU education in 16.5 years, and UC students take 25 years, according to comparable state subsidies and post-graduate work calculations provided by the AICCU.

Key Contacts

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Governor Jerry Brown

http://gov.ca.gov/m_contact.php (no direct email address available)

REDLANDS-AREA LEGISLATORS

State Senator Bill Emmerson (R- 37th District)

senator.emmerson@sen.ca.gov

Senator Bob Dutton (R- 31st District) – Senate Republican leader

Email form:

<http://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=SD31&inframe=Y&>

Assemblymember Paul Cook (D- 65th District)

Email form: <http://arc.asm.ca.gov/member/65/?p=email>

Senator Mike Morrell (R- 63rd District)

Email form: <http://arc.asm.ca.gov/member/63/?p=email>

STATE SENATORS: KEY COMMITTEES

Senator Darrell Steinberg (D- Sacramento) Senate President Pro Tem

Email: Senator.steinberg@sen.ca.gov

Senator Carol Liu (D-Glendale) Chair, Budget Subcommittee on Education

Email: Senator.liu@sen.ca.gov

Senator Rod Wright (D-Los Angeles) Member, Budget Subcommittee on Education

Email: roderick.wright@sen.ca.gov

Senator Bob Huff (R-Los Angeles) Senate Republican Leader, Member, Budget Subcommittee on Education

Email: bobhuff99@aol.com

Senator Ron Calderon (D- Montebello) Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus

Email: Senator.calderon@senate.ca.gov

Senator Curren Price (D- South Los Angeles) Chair, Legislative Black Caucus

Email: Senator.price@senate.ca.gov

STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBERS: KEY COMMITTEES

Assemblymember John Perez (D- Los Angeles) Speaker of the Assembly

Email: Assemblymember.John.Perez@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield (D- Van Nuys) Chair, Budget

Email: Assemblymember.Bob.Blumenfield@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Jim Nielson (R- Redding) Vice Chair, Budget

Email: Assemblymember.Nielson@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Susan Bonilla (D- Concord) Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee

Email: Assemblymember.Bonilla@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Bill Berryhill (R- Stockton) Member, Assembly Budget Subcommittee

Email: Assemblymember.Berryhill@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Julia Brownley (D- Santa Monica) Member, Assembly Budget Subcommittee
Chair, Education Committee

Email: Assemblymember.Brownley@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Brian Nestande (R- Rancho Cucamonga) Assembly Budget Subcommittee

Email: Assemblymember.Nestande@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Sandré Swanson (D- Oakland) Assembly Budget Subcommittee

Email: Assemblymember.Swanson@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Marty Block (D- Lemon Grove) Chair, Higher Education Committee

Email: Assemblymember.Block@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Tony Mendoza (D- Norwalk/East LA) Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus

Email: Assemblymember.Mendoza@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Mike Davis (D- South Los Angeles) Vice Chair, CA Legislative Black Caucus

Email: Assemblymember.Davis@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Warren Furutani (D- West LA) Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Caucus

Email: Assemblymember.Furutani@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (D- Hayward) Vice Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Caucus

Email: Assemblymember.Hayashi@assembly.ca.gov