



California State University Employees Union (CSUEU), SEIU 2579/CSEA

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
U.S. Senator of California
1 Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104

The Honorable Kamala Harris
U.S. Senator of California
501 I Street, Suite 7-600
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Congresswoman of California
Speaker of the House of Representatives
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic Funding Relief
Higher Education and State and Local Governments

Dear Members of Congress:

As you're well aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has socially and economically upended the lives of individuals and families on an unprecedented scale. This is a historical crisis that calls for the full engagement of all levels of government.

At California State University (CSU) campuses, the livelihoods of thousands of support staff have been put on hold. These are the employees who most engage with our students and who are responsible for ensuring the CSU operates in a safe and efficient manner. And front-line employees such as custodians, who are essential to our campus safety, lack adequate training and Personal Protective Equipment.

All across our country, tens of thousands of workers are sick or have lost their jobs. The ripple effect of the pandemic and the public's mounting fear are decimating local communities and businesses. Our healthcare workers are especially vulnerable as they work tirelessly to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and save lives.

To address these urgent, unmet needs, I implore Congress to take the following actions:

- Provide additional support for public higher education institutions that is earmarked to protect the educational opportunities of students and employee jobs.

- Issue grants to state and local governments to provide direct relief to community agencies that are working to support families.
- Instruct the Federal Reserve to directly purchase state and local debt to alleviate financing costs, and provide the public sector 0% interest loans that have already been given to the private sector.

The Federal Reserve has issued over \$1.5 trillion of 0% interest financing to the private sector with a pledge to provide additional financing, if needed. However, no such action has been taken to support the public sector. It is unjust that the Federal Reserve has failed to make such a commitment. State and local economies deserve the same access to financing relief as the private sector; people's lives depend on this support.

Experts agree that this is both possible and necessary. Chairman Jerome Powell recently committed the Federal Reserve to "step in" to provide loans "wherever...credit is not flowing," and declared the U.S. central bank was "not going to run out of ammunition. That doesn't happen." Fourteen state treasurers recently signed a joint letter to Chairman Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin declaring in order for state governments "to do their part in mitigating the associated economic and social costs" resulting from the coronavirus "they need to have confidence that they will continue to have access to financing." Without federal intervention, these economies will be decimated.

This is not a time to be timid. Our citizens, and especially our young people, depend on your swift and comprehensive action. In our hour of need, I implore Congress to use its constitutional powers and financial capacity to address the needs of public higher education institutions, and state and local governments.

I implore you to support a public that – out of necessity – have made an untold number of sacrifices to address this crisis. Such sacrifice should not be in vain.

My members and I appreciate your time and efforts. If I may be of assistance, or if you or your staff have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via njacklin@csueu.org.

Respectfully,



Neil Jacklin
CSUEU President

cc: U.S. House of Representatives of California
The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California

CSUEU represents nearly 16,000 employees that support and oversee the academics and operations of the 23 California State University campuses, including information technology, healthcare, clerical, administrative and academic support, campus operations, grounds and custodial.