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Assembly
California Legislature



CECILIA M. AGUIAR-CURRY
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

September 25, 2020

Dr. Judy K. Sakaki
President
Sonoma State University
1801 East Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, California 94928

Dear Dr. Sakaki,

It has come to my attention that Sonoma State University (SSU) recently announced "as a matter of prudent financial management and care for our educational mission, we must control and reduce expenses" and announced that due to a lack of work, layoff notices were issued to 51 SSU employees.

While I am relieved to hear some of these employees have been reassigned to other departments, preserving their employment with the University, I am deeply concerned about the employees whose jobs are still threatened. The majority of these employees are cafeteria and food services workers, people in a career field that is experiencing enormous challenges and whose employers are in virtual collapse because of the pandemic.

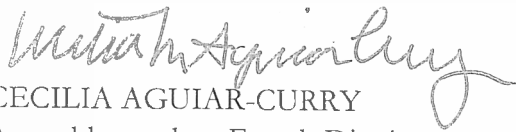
I also understand that these layoffs may be temporary due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I would appreciate knowing how the university intends to assure that any displacement or reassignment of workers might be reversed when SSU returns to more normal operation. To that end, I would request that you continue to work with the affected bargaining groups in good faith to reassign all employees and share your plans for a possible return to their positions, do everything in your power to help preserve every position, and keep me updated on your progress.

Covid-19 has wiped away the livelihood of millions of Americans. I understand that it has also impacted the budgets of our higher education institutions. But, during such difficult times, I know you share the philosophy that public institutions, including our State Universities, must do everything possible not to turn away people struggling to provide for their families, especially with little hope of replacing that income in today's economy.



I look forward to working with you and offer whatever assistance my office might provide in our goal to protect those least able to bear the burden of job loss during this time of immense crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cecilia Aguiar-Curry".

CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY

Assemblymember, Fourth District

Chair, Local Government Committee

CC: Dr. Timothy White, Chancellor, California State University
Mr. David Balla-Hawkins, CSU Employees Union