



April 30, 2020

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Coalition Calls on State Leaders to Provide Emergency Aid to Undocumented Students In Light of Trump Administration Decision to Omit Undocumented Students from CARES Act Funding

The recent announcement by the United States Department of Education to block undocumented students from receiving emergency CARES Act aid poses additional barriers for an already vulnerable population of students. More than 90,000 undocumented students are enrolled in California's colleges and universities and this financial relief would have supported those undocumented students who are experiencing significant economic hardship. While our Coalition calls on the Trump Administration to reverse its decision and adhere to the text of the CARES Act, we also urge state policymakers and higher education institutions to do everything possible to ensure undocumented students have the emergency aid they need to enroll and stay in college.

In response to the national uncertainty and adverse climate facing undocumented students in 2017, the California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition, a network of educators, civil rights, business, philanthropy, students and community-based organizations was established to advocate for policy solutions and resources that support undocumented students in achieving their college dreams. Undocumented students have been raised in our communities, attend our public schools and abide by our laws. They are aspiring teachers, artists, entrepreneurs, and doctors. Undocumented students are poised to make major contributions to our economy and supporting them in their higher education journey is not only a moral imperative but an investment to strengthen California's workforce and economy.

California has been at the forefront of enacting policies that ensure more undocumented students are able to access and succeed in higher education and now more than ever, our undocumented students need our focused attention. Philanthropic foundations have raised millions in emergency aid and the University of California and California State University have agreed to allocate funding for undocumented students in their systems to ensure that vulnerable students are not left empty handed. These efforts combined, however, are not nearly enough to meet the demand of tens of thousands of students in need. The Coalition urges state policymakers to build on that commitment by allocating targeted money in the state budget to expand this support. Let's continue to set the example for the nation of what it means to provide college opportunity for all students.

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About the California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition

The California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition works to strengthen California's workforce and economy by ensuring college access and success for undocumented youth in the state. For more information about the Coalition and a list of members, click [here](#).