



KATY YAROSLAVSKY

COUNCILWOMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 417, The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026 – Support if Amended

Dear Senator Cabaldon:

I am writing in support of the proposed Affordable Housing Bond of 2026 if amended to include dedicated funding for student housing at California's public colleges and universities.

As the Councilwoman representing the district that is home to UCLA, I see firsthand how the statewide housing shortage affects not only students but also our residents, businesses, and employers. When students are unable to access affordable housing on or near campus, they compete for scarce rental units in our neighborhoods. This drives up costs, strains our local housing market, and creates tension between students and long-term residents.

Investing \$1 billion in dedicated student housing is a practical and proven way to alleviate this pressure. Public universities have the land, infrastructure, and expertise to build quickly and efficiently, creating deeply affordable housing for students while freeing up units in our community for working families. These projects also support local economies by generating good-paying construction jobs and reducing commuter traffic and emissions.

The University of California (UC) system has shown it can deliver results. Under the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, the UC system leveraged \$600 million in state investment into \$1.9 billion in total project value, adding more than 5,000 new student beds, including 3,000 deeply affordable units.

I respectfully urge you to ensure that student housing is part of the final bond proposal.

Sincerely,

KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, Fifth District