



April 9, 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:

On behalf of Westwood Village Improvement Association (WVIA), I write to express our appreciation for your leadership in confronting California's housing crisis. We recognize SB 417, the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026, as a vital step forward. However, we respectfully urge that this measure be amended to include public higher education institutions—particularly the University of California and California State University systems—as eligible recipients of bond funding for housing.

Students across the UC system, our future workforce, face an affordability crisis. California's economic future is dependent on the ability for UC and CSU to drive economic mobility, and that means students must have affordable housing options.

Excluding higher education from the housing bond framework would be a missed opportunity at a time when California cannot afford to overlook all housing solutions. University campuses are adept at quickly building affordable housing for students, which can relieve strain on local residents and communities.

If amended to include dedicated funding for student housing at public colleges and universities, it would send a clear message that California values its students as part of the solution to the housing crisis and our shared economic prosperity.

WVIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization and enhancement of Westwood through public space improvements, hospitality, and cultural programming. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure California's housing solutions include our students.

Sincerely,

Michael Russell  
Executive Director  
Westwood Village Improvement Association

**Westwood Village Improvement Association**

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