



March 11, 2026  
Senator Christopher Cabaldon  
California State Senator  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 417 (Senator Cabaldon) – Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026 –  
SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Dear Senator Christopher Cabaldon,

On behalf of the UCLA Graduate Students Association (GSA), I am writing to express our support if amended position on SB 417 by Senator Cabaldon, the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026.<sup>1</sup> We strongly support the goal of authorizing \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to fund affordable housing across California.<sup>2</sup> However, we respectfully urge that the bill be amended to allocate \$1 billion of the \$10 billion for affordable student housing at California's public higher education institutions, including the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems.

California's housing crisis has a direct and devastating impact on graduate and professional students. Many UCLA graduate students spend well over 50 percent of their income on rent, forcing them to choose between their education and basic needs.<sup>3</sup> Housing insecurity contributes to food insecurity, mental health challenges, and longer times to degree completion. These challenges disproportionately affect students from low-income backgrounds and historically underrepresented communities—the very populations that public higher education is meant to uplift.

As currently drafted, SB 417 does not include public higher education institutions as eligible recipients of bond funding. This is a significant oversight. The University of California has identified a critical need for affordable on-campus student housing and has the land, infrastructure, and institutional capacity to build quickly and efficiently.<sup>4</sup> Investing in student housing would not only serve students directly but would also free up units in surrounding communities for working families, effectively multiplying the bond's impact on California's broader housing supply.

The UC has issued a Support if Amended position on this legislation, requesting that \$1 billion be dedicated to public higher education housing. This request is echoed by a broad

<sup>1</sup> SB 417 (Senator Cabaldon), The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026. Full bill text available at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB417](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB417)

<sup>2</sup> Assemblymember Wicks and Senator Cabaldon Joint Press Release, February 18, 2025. The bond would result in more than 35,000 new affordable homes and assist over 13,000 families in becoming homeowners.

<sup>3</sup> California Statewide Housing Plan. According to the plan, approximately 65 percent of low-income renters are rent-burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income toward housing.

<sup>4</sup> University of California, Housing Bond: About. See <https://housingbond.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/>

316 Kerckhoff Hall  
308 Westwood Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90077

Tel: 310-206-8512

Fax: 310-267-2545

[gsa.asucla.ucla.edu](http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu)



coalition of supporters including the UC Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC), the UC Student Association (UCSA), local chambers of commerce, elected officials, and business organizations across the state.<sup>5</sup> We are proud to add UCLA GSA's voice to this coalition.

Solving California's housing crisis must include solutions for students. We urge you to amend SB 417 to include dedicated funding for affordable student housing at UC and CSU campuses. This investment would be a practical, high-impact strategy to expand housing production, promote educational access, and support California's economic future.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the UCLA Graduate Students Association at [gsa@ucla.edu](mailto:gsa@ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Naomi Hammonds  
President, UCLA Graduate Students Association (GSA)

316 Kerckhoff Hall  
308 Westwood Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90077

Tel: 310-206-8512  
Fax: 310-267-2545

[gsa.asucla.ucla.edu](http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu)

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<sup>5</sup> For the full list of supporters, see <https://housingbond.universityofcalifornia.edu/partners-and-supporters/>