



University of California Student Association  
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July 3, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
California State Assembly, District 14  
1021 O Street, Room 8140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 736 (Wicks), as amended on April 10, 2025 - SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

On behalf of the University of California Student Association (UCSA), I write to **express our appreciation for your leadership in confronting California's urgent housing crisis**. We recognize AB 736, 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 are facing an escalating affordability emergency. Many of us are spending upwards of 50% of our monthly income on rent. Some are living in their cars or sleeping in libraries. The housing crisis is not something students are reading about in headlines—**it is something we live every day**. If California wants to double down on educational equity, economic mobility, and timely degree completion amid devastating federal politics, **the state must invest directly in affordable student housing**.

UC has shown it can deliver: When the state provided capital through the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, **UC turned \$600 million in state investment into over \$1.9 billion in total funding, producing thousands of beds—many at deeply subsidized rates**. The capacity exists and the need is undeniable, but what's missing is access to the funding AB 736 proposes.

Excluding higher education from the housing bond framework would be a missed opportunity at a time when California cannot afford to overlook solutions. **Our campuses are embedded in some of the most housing-constrained regions of the state**, where competition for affordable units between students and local residents can strain entire communities. Helping students access housing on or near campus relieves that pressure, benefits local economies, and keeps higher education within reach for the Californians who need it most. **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.

Thank you for your leadership and diligence on this critical component of a comprehensive housing solution. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure California's housing solutions include students. For these reasons, UCSA has a Support If Amended position on AB 736 and humbly requests your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Vincent J. Rasso, UCSA Government Relations Director, at [govrelations@ucsa.org](mailto:govrelations@ucsa.org) or 916-442-8280.

In community,

**Aditi Hariharan** | President  
University of California Student Association