



March 6, 2026

The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon  
1021 O Street, Suite 7320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 417 (Cabaldon), as amended on January 22, 2026**

**Position: Support if Amended**

Dear Senator Cabaldon:

On behalf of the City of Davis, I write to express our appreciation for the author's 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. In Davis, we see firsthand how the statewide housing shortage affects not only students but also our local 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. The City of Davis continues to work in close collaboration with UC Davis to ensure that both jurisdictions participate in the housing arena.

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.

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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.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure California's housing solutions include our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna 2. Neville". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Donna Neville  
Mayor