April 27, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker  
California State Assembly  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California State University 2018-2019 Budget Request

Dear Governor Brown, Senator Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

We, the undersigned members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, write in support of the California State University’s full budget request for 2018-19, which would advance progress on improving graduation rates, increase student access and ensure fair employee compensation.

California is a recognized leader in the national discussion on college affordability, life-changing access for historically-underserved populations and for innovative wrap-around student services. Much of this leadership is due to the extraordinary commitment and effort of the CSU chancellor, trustees, presidents, faculty, staff and students.

Nationally, the CSU is one of the largest educators of low-income, Pell-eligible students. This provides a tremendous boost toward social ascent and economic prosperity for individuals, families and communities. Last year, 99,000 undergraduates earned their bachelor’s degree, nearly 58,000 of whom were Pell recipients. The University continues to be the largest source of the state’s skilled workforce, annually awarding 51 percent of engineering, 43 percent of nursing, 50 percent of business and 41 percent of life science bachelor’s degrees in the state, while also preparing half of the state’s new K-12 and special education teachers.
The CSU alumni base includes one in ten California employees, the workforce of the nation’s largest state economy. One in twenty U.S. bachelor’s degree recipients earned that degree at the CSU. CSU students and alumni demographically represent the trend for our nation. The CSU, and by extension California, is setting the stage for how we educate and prepare the workforce of the future.

Your decision to fund the California State University at an adequate and sustainable level will have local, state and national repercussions. Quality access to affordable higher education is critical to all those we serve. California must continue to lead the way.

Thank you for your consideration of full funding of the California State University’s budget request.

Sincerely,

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

cc:  Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Chair Holly Mitchell, Assembly Budget Committee Chair Phil Ting, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 on Education Chair Anthony Portantino, Assembly Budget Sub 2 Education Finance Committee Chair Kevin McCarty