



THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

BAKERSFIELD

June 8, 2020

CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHICO

The Honorable Shirley Weber
State Capitol Room 3123
P.O. Box 942849

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Sacramento, California 94249-0079

EAST BAY

Re: **ACA 5 (Weber)**: Government Preferences (As amended on May 4, 2020)
CSU Position: **Support**

FRESNO

Dear Assemblymember Weber:

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

The California State University supports Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5. ACA 5 allows voters to repeal provisions of Proposition 209 of 1996 that have had a negative impact on access to higher education, as well as retention and degree completion for historically underserved students in California, particularly those from the African-American community.

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

Last week, I wrote a letter to the CSU community in response to the senseless, tragic and infuriating death of George Floyd and the subsequent public outcry. In it, I reaffirmed the CSU's commitment not only to be a source of knowledge, inclusivity and understanding, but also to search for solutions – to take deeper actions that promote justice in its full breadth including racial, economic, health and social domains. And I conveyed that we cannot achieve these actions if we don't first evaluate the systems and structures that constrain us from being the full embodiment of our beliefs and guiding principles. It is in this spirit that we support ACA 5.

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

Since launching Graduation Initiative 2025 four years ago, the CSU has achieved year-over-year historic gains in increasing completion rates for all students. But, one of the primary goals of the initiative that we have yet to realize is the *elimination* of equity and opportunity gaps. To address opportunity gaps based on race, it is imperative to employ race-conscious policies and practices. Regrettably, many proven strategies to improve educational equity and completion outcomes are directly prohibited by Prop. 209, such as:

SAN FRANCISCO

- Focused student recruitment and programs based on race/ethnicity;
- Focused recruitment programs for faculty of color;
- Externally funded scholarship programs based on race/ethnicity;
- Programs to recruit teacher candidates based on race/ethnicity; and
- Student retention programs based on race/ethnicity.

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

It has been nearly 25 years since Prop. 209 was implemented in California; it is time to give voters the ability to revisit that decision. While the CSU takes great pride in the fact that our student body largely reflects the dynamic diversity of our state, we know that we could do more, particularly for African-American students, if Prop. 209 prohibitions were no longer in

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

The Honorable Shirley Weber

June 8, 2020

Page 2

place. It is critical that we have the ability to target resources and support structures for students to overcome institutionalized and systemic opportunity barriers.

For these reasons, I am grateful that you have brought this important legislation forward. The CSU will do all we can to support your effort to give Californians the opportunity to vote on the repeal of Prop. 209 this November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'T'.

Timothy P. White

Chancellor

c: Governor Gavin Newsom
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins