

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 30, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 34

Introduced by Assembly Member Liu

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Baca, Bass, Berg, Bermudez, Bogh, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cohn, Coto, Daucher, De La Torre, DeVore, Dymally, Emmerson, Evans, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Harman, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Huff, Karnette, Keene, Klehs, Koretz, La Malfa, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Matthews, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nation, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Spitzer, Tran, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Wolk, and Yee)

March 3, 2005

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 34—Relative to public higher education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 34, as amended, Liu. Public higher education: student compact.

This measure would declare that it is time for a compact with the students enrolled in California's public colleges and universities. The

measure would express legislative recommendations with respect to this student compact, including recommendations relating to California higher education student fee and financial aid policies and funding for institutions to ensure students' access to and success in courses needed to complete their academic or vocational programs, limitation of the student loan debt, and the diversity of the student bodies and graduating classes at public colleges and universities.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The California Master Plan for Higher Education
2 sets forth the promise that higher education shall be affordable
3 and accessible to all eligible Californians; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the past four decades, California's
5 taxpayers have provided significant and consistent funding for
6 California's public system of higher education; and

7 WHEREAS, While University of California (UC) student fees
8 may be lower than at some comparable institutions, the total cost
9 of attending UC (including housing, books, and other costs) is
10 high. In the 2005–06 academic year, UC undergraduate students
11 are required to pay \$6,802 in systemwide and mandatory
12 campus-based student fees, while the total cost of their
13 attendance is an average of \$22,150; and

14 WHEREAS, While California State University (CSU) student
15 fees may be lower than at some comparable institutions, the total
16 cost of attending CSU (including housing, books, and other
17 costs) is much higher. In the 2005–06 academic year, CSU
18 undergraduate students are required to pay \$3,164 in systemwide
19 and mandatory campus-based student fees; and

20 WHEREAS, Over the past 30 years, higher education's share
21 of overall state General Fund spending has declined from 16.8
22 percent in 1975–76, to 11.3 percent in 2005–06. General Fund
23 support for the combination of the CSU and UC has declined
24 even more dramatically, going from slightly less than 12 percent
25 of state General Fund spending in 1976, to only 6 percent in
26 2006. Mandatory student fees have increased dramatically to
27 replace the declining state funding for higher education; and

28 WHEREAS, Despite an historical commitment to Cal Grant
29 awards and significant increases in institutional aid, need-based
30 aid in the form of grants has failed to keep up with rapidly rising

1 fees or to adequately address the total cost of attendance. As a
2 result, needy students still face an increasing loan burden; and

3 WHEREAS, The rising total cost of attendance has forced
4 students to take on increasing work and loan burdens. In constant
5 dollars, the cost of attendance at UC has increased from \$12,452
6 in 1994–95, to \$15,179 in 2003–04. Students at CSU have
7 experienced a similar increase in the cost of attendance; and

8 WHEREAS, The average UC undergraduate student graduates
9 with \$20,000 in debt; and

10 WHEREAS, Increasingly unreasonable work and loan burdens
11 inhibit students’ abilities to take challenging academic courses, to
12 participate in campus life, and to pursue public interest careers
13 after graduation; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
16 declares that it is time for a compact with students enrolled in
17 California’s public colleges and universities, and that the
18 Legislature therefore recommends all of the following:

19 (a) California higher education student fee and financial aid
20 policies should:

21 (1) Be sensitive to what families can afford, and not based
22 solely on the cost of instruction to the state, the university, or the
23 community college.

24 (2) Provide that student fees shall remain affordable even
25 during state budget crises.

26 (3) Recognize the outstanding contribution of graduate and
27 professional students to the research mission of UC and the
28 long-term economic strength of California’s economy.

29 (4) Include student representatives in the decisionmaking
30 process regarding student fee levels and policies.

31 (b) The state, the public universities, and the community
32 colleges should provide student grant aid so that:

33 (1) No student is prevented from attending UC, CSU, or the
34 California Community Colleges for financial reasons.

35 (2) Financially needy students receive sufficient grant aid to
36 cover the total cost of attendance, including fees, housing, books,
37 and transportation.

38 (c) The state should provide sufficient funding to community
39 colleges and universities to ensure that students have access to

1 the courses needed to complete their academic or vocational
2 programs in a timely fashion.

3 (d) The student fee and student affordability policies should
4 not require:

5 (1) Students to work unmanageable hours to finance their
6 education.

7 (2) The expected workload burden to negatively impact
8 students' academic performance or competitiveness for graduate
9 school or careers.

10 (e) The student fee and student affordability policies should
11 limit the student loan debt so that:

12 (1) Students can repay the loans within 10 years of graduation
13 at a rate that is a reasonable percentage of their income.

14 (2) Students are not restricted in their goals of pursuing an
15 advanced degree or working in the public interest sector.

16 (f) Key public policy goals for the Legislature are access to
17 and success in California higher education, so that the diversity
18 of our state is reflected in the diversity of the student bodies and
19 graduating classes of our public colleges and universities. In
20 order to ensure access and success for low-income and
21 educationally underserved students, the state must provide all of
22 the following:

23 (1) Permanent funding of the effective Academic Preparation
24 programs.

25 (2) Appropriate funding to accommodate enrollment growth
26 anticipated in the next decade.

27 (3) Appropriate funding for our colleges and universities to
28 ensure access, quality, success, and affordability for all students
29 who decide to enroll in those institutions; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a
31 copy of this resolution to each member of the Regents of the
32 University of California, the Trustees of the California State
33 University, and the Board of Governors of the California
34 Community Colleges.

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