

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 26**

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Adopted in Senate September 13, 1995

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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Adopted in Assembly September 12, 1995

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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This resolution was received by the Secretary of  
State this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1995,  
at \_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Deputy Secretary of State*



## RESOLUTION CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to student aid.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 26, Mello. Education: student loans.

This measure would urge the President and Congress of the United States to resist proposals that would adversely impact worthwhile student aid programs serving California students, especially those proposals that would eliminate or reduce State Student Incentive Grants (SSIG), Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Pell Grants, federal College Work-Study assistance (CWS), Perkins Student Loans, and the in-school interest subsidy of the Stafford Student Loans.

WHEREAS, Proposals before the new Congress would make drastic cuts in programs that encourage participation by middle-class and working-class Californians in California's public and private higher education system; and

WHEREAS, Under those proposals, it is virtually certain there would be drastic cuts for college assistance in the federal budget; specifically, the new Congress has proposed slashing over \$12.9 billion from the federal budget by eliminating or restructuring several college aid programs, including Stafford Student Loans, Perkins Student Loans, federal College Work-Study Assistance (CWS), Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Pell Grants, and State Student Incentive Grants (SSIG); and

WHEREAS, The SSIG supplements funding for California's Cal Grant program, benefitting over 89,414 California students and, if the funding for SSIG is reduced by \$9.7 million, as proposed, it would result in a drastic reduction in either award amounts or the number of recipients of the grants; and

WHEREAS, SEOG assists students with exceptional financial needs, and losing SEOG would add \$55,900,000



to the cost of college for Californians next year alone, impacting 100,000 students, including students at the University of California; and

WHEREAS, Thirty thousand California students who received \$626,000,000 in Pell Grants could be substantially disadvantaged if this funding is eliminated; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating the Perkins Student Loan Program, which provides assistance to low-income students, would cost California undergraduate and graduate students \$47,100,000 in college loan funds, affecting approximately 35,300 students; and

WHEREAS, If the CWS program, which provides matching dollars to colleges that hire students, is deleted, 65,973 California students would lose their campus jobs; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating the interest subsidy for Stafford Student Loans would increase the cost of college by not less than \$255,000,000 for 557,000 California students in one year, thereby affecting one in five California State University students and increasing the loan debt of University of California students and students attending independent colleges by an average of 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, The recession that hit California between 1990 and 1994 contributed to a decline in state support for higher education, shifting the burden increasingly to students, with fees increasing over the last five years at the University of California by 134 percent, at the California State University by 103 percent and at the community colleges by 290 percent; and

WHEREAS, These increased fees, combined with a slowdown in the economy which has led to fewer jobs for students, have forced students to increase their student loan debt by 40 percent more in the 1993–1994 fiscal year alone; and

WHEREAS, State cuts to colleges and universities have drastically reduced course offerings, forcing students to take six to seven years to complete what has traditionally been a four-year program; and



WHEREAS, The cumulative effect of these funding decisions has been to drive more than 200,000 university and college students out of the higher education system in California over the last several years; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature hereby urges the President and Congress of the United States to resist proposals that would adversely impact worthwhile student aid programs serving California students, especially those proposals that would eliminate or reduce SSIG, SEOG, Pell Grants, federal CSW, Perkins Student Loans and the in-school interest subsidy of the Stafford Student Loans; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.



Attest:

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*Secretary of State*

