



## **SB 1 – College – Financial Aid for Illegal Immigrants**

Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles)  
CWA Position – Oppose

### Talking Points

1. SB 1, the “California Dream Act” requires California State Universities (CSU) and California community colleges to offer tuition assistance and financial aid to illegal aliens. The University of California (UC) system will be included if their regents approve. Fee waiver programs would also be enacted for the community college system.
2. Current law states that an illegal immigrant who has attended high school in California for three or more years and has graduated from a California high school (or attained its equivalent) is exempt from paying nonresident tuition at California community colleges and the California State Universities. SB 1 adds additional benefits to an already bad policy.
3. The Federal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 prohibits immigrant students from accessing any postsecondary education benefits, including in-state tuition or public financial aid, unless a United States citizen is eligible for the same benefit. SB 1 seeks to take advantage of a change made to California law (AB 540, Chaptered 2001) allowing high school attendance to take the place of residency for determining in-state tuition. This, in turn, slips persons residing in this country illegally into a federal law loophole for financial aid at taxpayer expense.
4. The Assembly Appropriations Committee [analysis](#) for similar legislation in the 2005-06 session estimated the annual financial aid cost for these students to be \$3.6 million at CSU and \$3.7 million at UC schools. In addition, increased Proposition 98 funding to cover the costs of community college students was estimated at \$7.6 million.
5. California families have borne the burden of providing state benefits to people who enter our state illegally for too long. Taxpayers deserve to have their hard-earned funds working to benefit legal citizens of the state.

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