

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2017-18
Title: Resolution in Support of Project Rebound
Sponsored by: Senator for College of Liberal Arts Elvia Cabrera, Senator for College of Natural Sciences & Math Adriana Rincon, Senators-at-Large Samuel Kim and Daniel Gomez
Co-sponsor: Secretary for System-Wide Affairs Dale Lendrum
Date Submitted: February 15, 2017
Date Approved: March 8, 2017

- WHEREAS** Project Rebound¹ was founded in 1969, with the vision of successfully reintegrating formerly incarcerated individuals into society via higher education, by John Keith Irwin, PhD, a formerly incarcerated individual who taught for many years in the Sociology Department at San Francisco State University; and
- WHEREAS** a total of seven CSU campuses -- Sacramento, San Bernardino, Fresno, Bakersfield, Fullerton, San Diego and Pomona -- are enrolling former convicted felons into the program, allowing them to obtain GEDs, earn advanced academic degrees and become valuable members of society; and
- WHEREAS** many of the former Project Rebound students have gone on to have productive careers as writers, counselors, teachers and even college professors; and
- WHEREAS** the United States accounts for 5% of the world's population yet houses 25% of the incarcerated population of the entire world costing California state taxpayers 7.7% of the state budget, compared to 8.4% the state spends on higher education²; and
- WHEREAS** statistics have indicated that the cost of keeping a prisoner in prison for one year exceeds the cost of educating prisoners for one year by a 10 to 1 ratio; studies have clearly shown that "participants in prison education, vocation and work programs have recidivism rates 20-60 percent lower than those of non-participants" (The Nation, March 4, 2005)³; and
- WHEREAS** Congress, in 1994, via a federal crime bill, made inmates ineligible to receive Pell Grants (which they had been eligible to receive since 1965), former President Barrack Obama introduced the Second Chance Pell Program that allows prisoners to apply for student aid prior to being released so that they may take advantage of educational opportunities upon release⁴; and
- WHEREAS** CSU Los Angeles launched an education program in 2015 at the state prison in Lancaster and is the only university in California to offer an in-person bachelor's degree completion program for incarcerated students; and

¹ <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/media/pages/Project-Rebound-Recharges-Human-Potential.aspx>

² <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2017-18/#/Home>

³ <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/time-to-end-recidivism/>


⁴ <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/11/02/fact-sheet-president-obama-announces-new-actions-promote-rehabilitation>

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- WHEREAS** that former Congressman and current California Attorney General Xavier Becerra mentions that “I’m proud that the Department of Education has designated Cal State LA to improve the chances for many of our youth to see college in their future not our criminal justice system... All of our children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, deserve a second chance⁵,” and
- WHEREAS** that research shows that programs like Project Rebound can help alleviate the problems that lead to high rates of recidivism in a way that is cost effective to the State and personally empowering for individuals; and
- WHEREAS** that Project Rebound has served approximately 300 students since 2005, with graduates attaining both undergraduate and graduate degrees; and
- WHEREAS** that Project Rebound has demonstrated a successful methodology to reduce recidivism with 95% of Project Rebound’s students successfully earning their baccalaureate or master's degrees since 2005; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the CSULB ASI Board of Directors will support the implementation of Project Rebound to help formerly incarcerated individuals transition into higher education in CA; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the CSULB ASI show support for Project Rebound and Jason Bell, the Director of Project Rebound by promoting and bringing awareness of Project Rebound to CSULB; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the CSULB ASI urges Enrollment Services to adopt Project Rebound and use the process of accepting formerly incarcerated individuals based on the requirements established by Project Rebound; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the CSULB ASI urges the University to advertise this opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals online, through Enrollment Services, as well as on the CSU Admissions application for CSULB; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon its approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President of Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Brian Jersky, Dean of Students Jeff Klaus, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, and all current ASI Officers.

⁵ <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/publicat/cal-state-la-selected-obama-administration-second-chance-pell-program>

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Logan Vournas, Vice President &
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:



Marvin Flores, Associated Students President

3/8/17
Date
3/8/17
Date

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