

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

Bill Number: Senate Resolution SR #2017-39
Title: Support for Books Not Bombs
Sponsored by: Senators-at-Large Yasmin Elasmr, Yasmeen Azam and Hilda Jurado, and Senator for the College of Health and Human Services Leen Almahdi
Date Submitted: April 21, 2017
Date Approved: May 10, 2017

- WHEREAS** the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Senate serves as the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and
- WHEREAS** the California State University (CSU) understands that campuses do not exist in isolation from the world and should "provide public services that enrich the university and its communities;¹" and
- WHEREAS** the CSULB International Programs team strengthens connections with students, scholars, and partners around the world by welcoming them to our campus each year for a range of degree and non-degree programs and are committed to working together to address the complex challenges facing the world today;² and
- WHEREAS** Syria has been at war for over 6 years leading to the death of over 250,000 people, the displacement of 11 million – half the country – and the emergence of some of the most radical, violent groups on the planet, including ISIS;³ and
- WHEREAS** the enrollment rates in Syrian universities rose from 12% to 26% in the last 8 years leading up to the civil war and has dropped significantly due to the displacement of university-aged people;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** on January 15, 2013, two airstrikes hit Aleppo University on the first day of final exams, killing 82 students, and as of 2014, 1,629 students have been killed by government forces with an estimate of 35,000 university students being unlawfully detained;⁵ and
- WHEREAS** that millions of Syrian high school graduates and college students are unable to pursue their dream of a college degree; thousands of schools have been destroyed, unfairly depriving Syrian students from their right to education; and
- WHEREAS** that Books Not Bombs is a campaign that aims to push universities to offer scholarships to Syrian students and join the Institute of International Education (IIE) Syria Consortium, enabling Syrian students to receive scholarships for a safe and quality education; and
- WHEREAS** the Institute of International Education is a non-profit organization, that has existed for nearly a century; designs and manages scholarships, study abroad, workforce training and leadership

¹ <https://www.calstate.edu/PA/info/mission.shtml>

² <http://www.ccpe.csulb.edu/international/default.aspx>

³ <https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syria-refugee-crisis-war-facts>

⁴ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/10/syria-university-students-education/412174/>

⁵ http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/university%20student%20like%20kill.pdf

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programs internationally;⁶ and

- WHEREAS** that the IIE Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis is a network of colleges and universities that helps provide scholarships for Syrian students whose education has been disrupted as a result of the war;⁷ and
- WHEREAS** that the Syria Consortium, created by IIE, has brought together more than 40 universities who have committed to offer Syrian students and scholars a safe haven to continue their studies abroad;⁸ and
- WHEREAS** a petition on the Books Not Bombs website has demonstrated student support for the program to take place at CSULB⁹; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI encourages the University to support the Books Not Bombs campaign and join the IIE Syria Consortium and sponsor at least two Syrian refugees of different gender identities in their pursuit of education at 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 Close Conoley, CSULB Vice President for Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Provost Brian Jersky, all members of the California State Student Association, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, and the CSU Board of Trustees.



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

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:



Marvin Flores, Associated Students President

5/10/17
Date
5/10/17
Date

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⁶ <https://www.iie.org/>

⁷ <https://www.iie.org/Programs/Syria-Scholarships>

⁸ <http://books-not-bombs.com/about>

⁹ <http://books-not-bombs.com/csulb>