

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

Bill Number: Senate Resolution SR #2020-08
Title: Resolution in Support of H.R. 2168, The Restoration of Pell Grant Access for Prisoners
Sponsored by: Senator for the College of Education Dale Lendrum
Date Submitted: January 14, 2020
Date Approved: February 12, 2020

- WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and
- WHEREAS** CSULB and ASI are committed to educational equity, inclusive excellence, and the public good; and providing access to postsecondary prison education programs for prisoners facilitates educational equity, promotes inclusive excellence, and serves the public good; and
- WHEREAS** prior to 1994, qualifying prisoners housed in federal and state facilities in the United States were eligible to receive Pell Grant funding for postsecondary education under Title IV 401(b) (8) of the Higher Education Act of 1965;⁵ and
- WHEREAS** Congress passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Congress, U.S., 1994), which amended § 401(b) (8) of the Higher Education Act (HEA, 1965), thereby prohibiting Pell Grant funding for federal and/or state prisoners;¹ and
- WHEREAS** H.R. 2168, The Real Act of 2019 seeks to reinstate Federal Pell Grant eligibility for individuals incarcerated in Federal and State penal institutions, and for other purposes, has been introduced to the 116th Congress;² and
- WHEREAS** the majority of incarcerated individuals are academically eligible to take college-level courses;³ and
- WHEREAS** prisoners who achieve a high school diploma or equivalent, experience less than a 55% chance of recidivating while prisoners who achieve an associate's or bachelor's degree experience less than a 12% and 6% chance of recidivating respectfully, and those whom achieve graduate level degrees (M.A., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.) experience a zero chance of recidivating;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** educational attainment pre-release increases combined earnings of formerly incarcerated workers by 45.3 million in the first year alone;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** access to postsecondary prison education programs reduces recidivism while saving states a "projected \$365.8 million per year in incarceration costs;"⁴ now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the ASI recognizes the rehabilitative and transformative value, to individuals, families, and communities, of providing postsecondary education programs for prisoners; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI strongly urge CSULB, the CSU Board of Trustees, Office of the Chancellor, The Superintendent of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Governor Gavin Newsom, the California House of Representatives, and the United States House of Representatives to support the restoration of Pell Grant access for prisoners; and be it finally

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RESOLVED that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon approval by the ASI President be distributed to the CSULB President Jane Conoley, Provost Brian Jersky, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Ann Takemoto, Dean of Students Piya Bose, The California State University Chancellor and Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate for California State University, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Brant Choate, Associated Students President/CEO Lizbeth Velasquez, all ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Media.

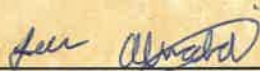
¹Congress, U. S. (1994). Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Public law, (103-322).

²Davis, & K., D. (2019, April 9). Text - H.R.2168 - 116th Congress (2019-2020): REAL Act of 2019. Retrieved January 11, 2020, from [https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2168/text?q={\"search\":\[\"REAL+Act\"\]}&r=2&s=1](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2168/text?q={\).

³diZerega, M., & Delaney, R. (2020, January 11). Investing in Futures. Retrieved January 11, 2020, from <https://www.vera.org/publications/investing-in-futures-education-in-prison>.

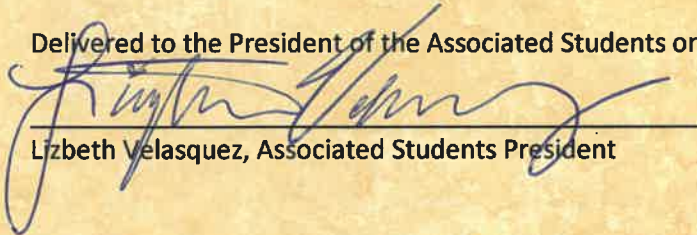
⁴“Education as crime prevention,” Open Society Institute, Criminal Justice Initiative, Research Brief Occasional Paper Series No. 2 (September 1997); E.R. Meiners, “Resisting Civil Death: Organizing for Access to Education in our Prison Nation,” DePaul Journal for Social Justice, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2009), H. McCarty 2006 op. cit.

⁵HEA (1965), Higher Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. 89-329, 79 Stat. 1219, § 487A(b).



Leen Almahdi, Vice President &
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:


Lizbeth Velasquez, Associated Students President

2/12/20
Date
2/12/20
Date

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