

California Student Aid Commission
Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee

Item 5

(Information Item)

Update on state and federal legislation

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on pending state and federal policy issues and legislation relevant to the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) policy priorities or other items relevant to the Commission's programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission staff are currently tracking numerous priority measures. On May 27, 2022 several bills successfully were passed by their respective houses of origin, while others were either held in committee or did not get enough votes in their house of origin's floor to move forward in the legislative process. This is the second year of the two-year legislative session. Both of the Commission's sponsored bills – AB 1746 (Medina, McCarty & Leyva) and AB 2286 (Irwin) were approved unanimously by the Assembly prior to the house of origin deadline.

In addition to sponsored legislation, the Commission has designated support positions on a total of seven other legislative bills. The attached Summary of Priority and Tracked Legislation provides updates on legislation that the Commission is supporting, legislation that has direct impact on Commission operations and programs, as well as other bills impacting state financial aid and college affordability policies. The Bill Tracking Matrix (attached) provides a visual and succinct summary on the status of priority tracked bills identified by Commission staff, which includes sponsored, support, direct impact, and other high priority legislation.

On March 2022, President Biden released his budget proposal for fiscal year (FY) 2023 which calls for doubling the maximum Pell Grant by the 2029 FY, beginning with a \$2,175 increase for a total award amount of \$8,270 and extending eligibility for Pell Grants to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Additionally, Commission Chair Catalina Cifuentes, Executive Director Marlene Garcia, Deputy Director of Policy & Public Affairs Jake Brymner, and Director of Data & Research Patrick Perry met with numerous leaders in Congress and the Biden Administration

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during the last week of April 2022 to share the findings and recommendations for the Commission's report on CalFresh for college students, as well as to raise awareness on the need to increase the award amount and access to Pell Grants for DACA recipients. Commission staff led the development of and circulated a coalition letter expressing support for President's proposal to extend Pell Grant eligibility to DACA students that is included as an additional attachment, along with two other summary documents on the Commission's federal policy priorities and recommendations for improving student access to the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP, or CalFresh) prepared for the April trip.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Alex Zucco, Government Relations & Advocacy Manager
Government and External Relations

Jake Brymner, Deputy Director
Policy and Public Affairs Division

ATTACHMENT(S):

Summary of Priority & Tracked Legislation
State Legislative Bill Matrix
CA Student Aid Federal Policy Priorities
CalFresh Proposal Updates
Coalition Letter in Support of Extending Pell Grants to DACA Recipients in FY 2023
State and Federal Legislative Update Presentation