



# What Students Are Saying

“ SB 291 is a stepping stone for community college students because it gives them even more opportunities to succeed. Far too often, community college students are left out of the conversation of equity, especially when it comes to financial aid. With the cost of living rising in California and the need for a college degree becoming more of a requirement for financial stability, it is imperative that we give every student the financial comfort to achieve their goals.”

**Alexander Walker-Griffin**  
**Student Body President, Contra Costa College**  
**Student Representative, California Community Colleges Board of Governors**

“ I support this bill because tuition is not the entire cost of college and often times students cannot continue college due to other financial struggles, such as how to pay for a place to live, food to eat, and supplies they need that are not being covered by regular financial aid. This is a huge step in the right direction!”

**Alexis Zaragoza**  
**Student, Modesto Junior College**  
**Student Representative, California Community Colleges Board of Governors**

“ I’m excited about SB 291 because it finally offers CCC students the same support a four-year university student receives. This would bring equity to the financial aid system by ensuring we have money for textbooks, transportation to classes, or food to eat while studying and pursuing our degree.”

**Kellie Williams**  
**Student, Los Angeles City College**  
**Student Trustee, California Community Colleges Trustees Board**

“ For too long California community colleges have been overlooked in terms of financial aid, especially state-based aid. SB 291 will change that by giving low-income students a real chance at educational achievement, providing proper financial assistance that takes into account the total cost of attendance.”

**Iiyshaa Youngblood**  
**Former Student, Moreno Valley College (CSU San Bernardino)**  
**President, Student Senate for California Community Colleges**

“ SB 291 will offer necessary aid to our system’s most vulnerable students. Taking into account a student’s total cost of attendance when allocating aid is essential to preventing students from choosing between this week’s meals or their textbooks. I’ve personally had to work upwards of 30 hours per week in addition to taking a full course load just to be able to stay in school. The students of California’s community colleges have been waiting for this opportunity for upward mobility through education, please help us to be able to complete our educational journeys through the adoption of this legislation.”

**Valerie Johnson**  
**Student, Crafton Hills College**  
**President, Crafton Hills College Student Senate**

“ This is a great bill that will allow people like me to finish their education. I would not have been able to return to school without the help of financial aid.”

**Alex Borges**  
**Student, American River College**

“ I support SB 291 because having additional financial aid would allow me to focus more on my education and its resources among other things.”

**Daniel Fitch**  
**Student, Modesto Junior College**

“ I support this bill because students need help to reach their education goal before being able to help others in life and financial aid is the most powerful tool for students to start their journey of life.”

**Jadee Ngo**  
**Student, American River College**

“ SB 291 will afford me the opportunity to actually focus on what I am learning and not how I am going to pay for the education I need to be successful.”

**Megan Prell**  
**Former Student, Cypress College (National University)**