

TEMPLATE 1 (Economy)

Dear Editor:

As the major supplier of graduates for California's workforce, the California State University is a powerful engine for the state's economy, providing a four-fold return on investment for each dollar invested in the system. We are especially concerned about the erosion of state support for the CSU, and the proposed budget cuts, which will limit student access and enrollment, and limit the supply of graduates to California's workforce.

After cutting CSU funding by more than \$500 million in recent years, the current budget proposes to take away more than \$300 million more. CSU graduates 90,000 people into the workforce each year, and provides the majority of the state's teachers, nurses, business professionals and engineers. These are professions that are in high demand and will only be more critical in the future. For example, it is estimated that the state will need 47,000 more nurses by 2010.

While the current economic downturn and budget deficit are bad news, it would be short-sighted to cut funding to those institutions, such as CSU, which are critical to our future economic success.

Sincerely,

TEMPLATE 2 (Access)

Dear Editor:

A quality higher education system is critical for both our economy and society as a whole. Of the state budget cuts being considered, we should be especially concerned about cuts to the California State University. CSU provides access to a diverse spectrum of Californians, including those from minority and under-served communities. For many, it is the only pathway to the middle class and represents the opportunity for a better future.

The proposed cuts would force CSU to turn away 10,000 qualified students. That is 10,000 young men and women who have successfully done the work but won't gain access to a CSU campus through no fault of their own. For those who are able to gain access, they will face higher fees and fewer course options.

These students are the future of California. They will drive our economy and lead our state. The long-term cost of denying them a college education will be far more than it will cost the state to fully fund the CSU.

Sincerely,