

Resolution in Support of California AB 1818

WHEREAS, while California makes up less than 12% of the country's population, it makes up 30% of the country's homeless population¹;

WHEREAS, a 2020 study showed that 1 in 5 California Community College (CCC) students, 1 in 10 California State University (CSU) students, and 1 in 20 University of California (UC) students experience homelessness²; in contrast, less than 1 in 200 of the general California population are homeless³, meaning that CCC, CSU, and UC students are impacted disproportionately on this issue;

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 302 (2019)⁴ was introduced in January 2019, which aimed to allow overnight parking for California Community College (CCC) students, but was shelved in September 2019 and was not passed into law;

WHEREAS, in November 2019, the North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) passed a resolution calling on UCLA to create a safe parking program⁵;

WHEREAS, according to a Daily Bruin article published on January 15, 2020, "UCLA rejected a proposal by the local neighborhood council to create on-campus parking spaces where students can sleep," with Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck instead suggesting "a hostel-like environment where students could pay around \$15 a night to sleep" as the alternate solution⁶;

WHEREAS, since this safe parking rejection and alternate suggestion of a hostel was made in January 2020, there has been no progress made towards a hostel, with the only hostel program currently being offered at UCLA being the Summer Hostel program at \$84 per night⁷;

WHEREAS, even if a hostel program was created at UCLA, \$15 per night (and, certainly, \$84 per night) places unnecessary financial burden on homeless students, and ignores the root problem of homelessness itself;

¹<https://calmatters.org/housing/2022/10/california-homeless-crisis/>

²<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.214/38e.a8b.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/cts-state-of-crisis-report.pdf>

³<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

⁴https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB302

⁵<https://dailybruin.com/2019/11/14/nwwnc-asks-ucla-to-offer-safe-parking-to-students-experiencing-homelessness>

⁶<https://dailybruin.com/2020/01/15/ucla-rejects-parking-space-proposal-for-students-experiencing-homelessness>

WHEREAS, even if UCLA created a large-scale affordable housing program, smaller steps, like a safe parking program, must be taken in the immediate future so that current students do not continue to suffer the educational barriers that homelessness creates;

WHEREAS, the USAC passed resolution #33 (2020-2021)⁸ in October 2020, A Resolution in Recognition of Students Experiencing Homelessness and in Support of Safe Parking, in support

of establishing a safe parking program in Parking Lot 7;

WHEREAS, since these initial proposals were written, from 2019 to 2022, the number of people in the state of California who stay in homeless shelters increased by 33% and the number of people in the state of California who are considered homeless and “unsheltered” grew 7%⁹;

WHEREAS, with these initial proposals having not taken into account the massive growth of homelessness during the past 4 years of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, more recently, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) voted on resolution S23.03.04 – Safe Parking Programs¹⁰ at the 2023 General Assembly held in March to April, authored by Alette Laughton and sponsored by Moorpark College, which passed unanimously without objection;

WHEREAS, in November 2023, the Deputy Director of the UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, Madeline Brozen, spoke on the KQED’s Forum podcast to emphasize that “nearly 19,000 people in Los Angeles County are living in their vehicles” and that while some parking spots are set aside for safe parking, “Los Angeles has only 500 such parking spots,” which is too few to accommodate the large number of people living in their car¹¹;

WHEREAS, Long Beach City College announced in 2021 that it would be launching a pilot program for overnight student parking, where students could have access to Wi-Fi, restrooms and showers, and security present¹²;

WHEREAS, despite Long Beach City College’s safe parking program only having helped 4 students enrolled in the program, the college announced in February 2023 that it would be renewing the program for another semester¹³;

WHEREAS, since a safe parking program at UCLA would be able to help more students than the small-scale present at Long Beach City College;

⁷<https://summerhostel.hh.ucla.edu/>

⁸<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2021.A%20Resolution%20in%20Recognition%20of%20Students%20Experiencing%20Homelessness%20and%20in%20Support%20of%20Safe%20Parking.pdf>

⁹<https://calmatters.org/housing/2022/10/california-homeless-crisis/>

¹⁰https://ssccc.org/file_download/inline/ec993648-5255-4266-89f8-b901404230e5

¹¹<https://luskin.ucla.edu/seeking-safe-spaces-for-people-whose-cars-are-their-homes>

¹²<https://www.lbcc.edu/press-release/lbcc-launches-pilot-program-student-overnight-parking>

¹³<https://lbccviking.com/2023/02/pccs-safe-parking-program-continues-for-spring-semester>

WHEREAS, since UCLA charges higher student fees than Long Beach City College, and could be paying roughly the same amount to have overnight security and other facilities open, there is no excuse for UCLA to not have a safe parking program;

WHEREAS, with the introduction of AB 1818 (2024)¹⁴ authored by Assemblymember Corey Jackson, which would require the CCCs and CSUs, and request the UCs, to allow overnight parking by an enrolled student if they meet student conditions, more pressure than ever is being

put on colleges to create a safe parking program for its students;

WHEREAS, the background, plan of implementation, and reimbursement plan of AB 1818 (2024) by Assemblymember Jackson is actionable, and presents no major hurdles;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC is in strong support of the passing of AB 1818 (2024) by Assemblymember Jackson.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC stands in solidarity with students experiencing homelessness, and will advocate for their needs more strongly.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC stands in solidarity with the student organizations and campus resources advocating for the needs of homeless UCLA students.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC urges the University of California to support its homeless student population and to uplift the call from its students in creating a safe parking program.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on UCLA to recognize the issue of homelessness on its campus and to establish a safe parking program with overnight Wi-Fi access, restrooms and showers, and security, regardless of the outcome of AB 1818 (2024).

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on UCLA to establish a pilot program similar to that of Long Beach City College;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC denounces UCLA's prior stance on only creating larger projects, such as a hostel, to address the homelessness problem, and urges them to acknowledge a safe parking program as an immediate step in the right direction towards solving student homelessness;

THEREFORE LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the USAC will do everything in its power to uplift the voices of students who currently experience homelessness, uplift the stances of student organizations and campus resources working to fight homelessness, and uplift the position of the supporters of AB 1818 (2024) and safe parking programs, so that UCLA and the University of California recognize the massive importance of this issue and the large call towards creating a safe parking program at UCLA.

¹⁴https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1818