



PRESS ADVISORY

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Student-Led Ballot Measure for Tuition Relief Voices Support for AB 2372

Students' Days of Action Include Bake Sales, Letter Writing Campaigns & Call-Ins

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: The Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee will hear Assemblymember Joe Coto's (23rd Assembly District) AB 2372, the College Affordability Act of 2008. This bill is identical to a student-led ballot initiative currently in circulation and potentially headed for the November 2008 ballot. The bill recently passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee. In a statewide coordinated effort in 30 legislative districts, students are planning successive "days of action" on the bill. Students from UC Berkeley and Cal State East Bay will be publicly writing letters of support and calling the office of Mary Hayashi (D-Hayward), who is on the Revenue & Taxation Committee, to urge her support for the bill. Students will be wearing their highly recognized yellow t-shirts.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 11 am – 3 pm

WHERE: Sproul Plaza
University of California, Berkeley

WHY: UC and CSU tuition ("fees") have been skyrocketing, with no end in sight. Over the past six years, UC and CSU tuition nearly doubled, and the current budget picture just makes things worse.

This doesn't just hurt students and their parents. It hurts California as well. California's 21st century economy will require a well-educated workforce to remain competitive.

Under the banner of Tuition Relief Now, and with the support of Greenlining Action, thousands of student and parent volunteers are collecting signatures to qualify for the November 2008 ballot. They are on 30 campuses and surrounding communities throughout California.

Students are also offering the California legislature an opportunity to pass an identical measure, AB 2372, which would:

- Freeze tuition for five years at UC and CSU
- Prevent any future increases (beyond the fifth year) from exceeding inflation
- Raise new revenue for the university through a 1% tax on millionaires
- Establish an accountability panel to ensure that revenue is spent to educate students

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