

The Honorable Mike Fong  
Chair, Assembly Higher  
Education Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 5650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 18, 2026

**RE: AB 713 (Solache)**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chair Fong:

CFT — A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO, supports support Assembly Bill (AB) 713 (Solache), which would ensure equitable access to on-campus employment for all students at the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC). AB 713 will not only create opportunities for thousands of undocumented students across California but will support the state in reaching growing workforce demands and degree matriculation.

All students in California deserve the opportunity to obtain an affordable college education in pursuit of the California Dream regardless of immigration status. Currently, California colleges and universities enroll over 82,000 undocumented students, many of whom do not qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, and thus have been unjustly barred from opportunities on campus. By being systematically denied equal access to on campus employment, undocumented students miss out on critical career development opportunities, struggle to pay for education costs, and are compelled to undertake under-the-table jobs which are often precarious and exploitative.

In the past decade, California has supported undocumented students and individuals by uplifting Medi Cal and allowing California IDs for all. These are just a few of the State's efforts in ensuring undocumented individuals have equal opportunity to thrive across the state. California must continue to support them.

Notable legal scholars have identified that the federal prohibition on hiring undocumented people (the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA)) does not apply to state governments when they act as employers like California's higher education systems. As they have explained, under governing U.S. Supreme Court precedent, if Congress seeks to legislate in an area of traditional state control it must mention the states explicitly if it wishes

to bind them. The rules governing whom states can hire as their own employees are an area of traditional state control. Because nothing in 8 U.S.C. 1324a expressly binds or even mentions state governments or their branches, it does not bind them. Moreover, in August 2025, California Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that the University of California's policy of denying educational employment opportunities to undocumented students is discriminatory. In October 2025, the California Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's ruling.

Together, these developments mean that the University of California, California State University, and the California Community Colleges can and must authorize the hiring of all their undocumented students on the same terms as other students.

California should pass AB 713 to remedy this discriminatory practice. This bill will allow states across the nation to follow our lead in combating racist, anti-immigrant policies that threaten the livelihood of millions of undocumented individuals and immigrants across the nation each day.

For these reasons, we strongly urge your “AYE” vote on this measure. Should you have any questions, please contact CFT Legislative Representative Tiffany Mok at [tmok@cft.org](mailto:tmok@cft.org).

Sincerely,



Tiffany Mok  
Legislative Representative

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