



The Student Homes Coalition is a student-led collective of higher education advocacy organizations and youth activists fighting for affordable, accessible, and abundant student housing.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Newsom Signs Three Student Homes Coalition Bills into Law

SACRAMENTO, CA - As of today, Governor Newsom has signed all three pending Student Homes Coalition sponsored bills into law. AB 893, AB 648, and AB 357 will streamline the construction of both on and off-campus student housing, and create new pathways for students to access affordable housing. Together, these three bills will allow campuses and communities to grow to meet the increasing demand for student housing while addressing the state-wide student homelessness crisis.

"AB 893, AB 648, and AB357 will supercharge housing production of housing on and around our UCs, CSUs, and Community Colleges," said Kate Rodgers, Co-Chair and Policy Director for the Student Homes Coalition. "We cannot thank Governor Newsom and our authors enough for fighting for California's students and bringing us one step closer to the end of the student housing crisis."

First, [AB 893 \(Fong\)](#) will expand AB 2011 (Wicks) to all land within a "Campus Development Zone," or all the land within a half-mile radius of a UC, CSU, or community college. This bill will require that cities approve mixed-use, mixed-income housing projects near campuses by-right, streamlining the development of much needed affordable housing in dense, walkable areas. Unlike most of the state's affordable housing projects, students can access deed-restricted low income units built with AB 893 through CalGrant, Pell Grant, or Promise Grant eligibility.

"AB 893 represents a vital step toward addressing California's student housing crisis by empowering our colleges and universities to create more affordable housing opportunities," said Assemblymember Mike Fong, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. "Access to safe and stable housing is fundamental to student success, allowing students to focus on their education rather than where they will sleep at night. I am proud to support efforts that uphold the dignity and well-being of California's students and ensure that every student has the opportunity to live in an environment where they can thrive."

The student housing crisis is particularly acute at California's Community Colleges, with nearly 1 in 4 students experiencing homelessness in a given academic year. Still, just 14 out of 116 colleges offer housing to students, due in part to local regulatory barriers that prevent development. [AB 648 \(Zbur\)](#) will streamline the development of CCC housing by providing college districts with land use authority enjoyed by the UC and CSU campuses. This bill will empower community colleges to tackle the student homelessness crisis at their campuses, while setting students up for long term success.

"Community college students face some of the highest rates of housing insecurity and homelessness in California," said Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. "By removing barriers to building affordable student and staff housing, we're taking another bold step toward addressing our state's housing crisis. Housing is a fundamental need, and with this law, students can focus on their studies — and staff and faculty on their work — without the constant stress of not knowing where they'll sleep at night. I'm deeply grateful to Governor Newsom for signing this important bill into law."

Student and workforce can be more difficult to build in certain regions of California due to increased regulatory barriers and delayed approval processes. [AB 357 \(Alvarez\)](#) will streamline the development of student housing in the California Coastal Zone, primarily impacting UCSB, UCSD and private colleges in the area. As part of the fast-track housing package, this bill is part of a broader effort this legislative session to speed up the permitting process for all types of housing. AB 357 will expedite the construction of much needed student and workforce housing by allowing campuses to set their own parking ratio and creating a streamlined process for amending university coastal planning documents to accommodate growing student populations.

"Student housing has become one of the most pressing issues facing UC students across the state. Through the signing of AB 357 and AB 893 by the Governor, we are excited to make progress towards addressing affordability for students by addressing the root causes of housing costs: Building barriers, low-income units available, and density/proximity to campus," said Vincent Rasso, Government Relations Director for the UC Student Association. "UCSA worked in strong partnership with Student Homes to ensure these issues are being intentionally addressed by the State, and we thank Assemblymembers Fong and Alvarez for their leadership and look forward to advancing these solutions on our campuses in service to students facing housing challenges."

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About the Student HOMES Coalition: The Student Homes Coalition is a collective of higher education advocacy organizations and youth activists fighting for affordable, accessible, and abundant student housing. We believe that providing housing as a basic need and a human right allows students to holistically fulfill the vision of achieving a higher education, laying the groundwork for future access to opportunity.