Statement from President Wiafe on Chairman Alexander's Proposed Higher Education Package

Every day thousands of Cal State University (CSU) students struggle to meet their most basic needs due to the incredibly high cost of attendance. Nearly 42% are food insecure and another 11% are homeless - those rates skyrocket for our first generation student population. Without adequate investment in today's students, the affordability crisis we see across the nation and in the CSU will never truly be addressed.

This is precisely why we need a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), and are concerned about piecemeal proposals like that of Chairman Alexander. It is not enough to address the needs of today's students - especially those of us at the CSU.

Instead, we ask that comprehensive HEA reauthorization does three main things:

1. Makes college more affordable by restoring the purchasing power of Pell, reallocates programs like Work Study to best serve historically underserved populations, and modernizes the federal aid to address the issues today's students are facing.
2. Addresses equity in full measure by helping students meet their basic needs and protecting their health and overall wellbeing.
3. Works to keep students safe by re-evaluating and strengthening Title IX and students’ rights guidelines.

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The Cal State Student Association, also known as CSSA, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit student organization founded by student body presidents in 1959. Recognized by the California State University (CSU) Trustees and the California legislature as the official voice of CSU students, CSSA has long advocated for access to an affordable and high-quality CSU education. It is by CSSA's work that student voices are included when it comes to decisions made by the CSU Chancellor, CSU Trustees, and the state legislature. CSSA works to ensure that the students are at the forefront of higher education policy in California.