



**Senate Bill No.:** SB 2013-14-003

**Date:** October 17, 2013

**Authored by:** Talar Alexanian, A.S. Vice President

**Referred to:** Committee of the Whole

**Committee Rec:** **Approved on 10-28-13 (votes: 16-0-0)**

**Senate Action:** **Approved On 10-28-13 (votes: 16-0-0)**

**Title:** **Communicating New Healthcare Options to the CSUN Community**

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. (A.S.) is the official voice of over 38,000 students of California State University, Northridge (CSUN); and
2. WHEREAS: A.S. is the primary advocate for students at CSUN and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning focused campus environment; and
3. WHEREAS: As outlined in the A.S. Strategic Plan each year, A.S. remains committed to encouraging and facilitating the physical, emotional, interpersonal, career and spiritual wellbeing of students; and
4. WHEREAS: In accomplishing its mission and strategic plan, A.S. has the responsibility to inform students of key legislation that will affect them, now including the new healthcare options available to students and their families; and
5. WHEREAS: The CSU is the nation's most diverse university system, serving 437,000 students from various ethnic backgrounds and historically underserved and underrepresented communities; and
6. WHEREAS: Nearly 70% of students in the CSU system make less than four times the federal poverty line, which would qualify them for subsidies to buy insurance;<sup>(1)</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> (1)[http://www.politico.com/story/2013/10/cal-state-system-pushes-obamacare-for-students-97947\\_Page2.html](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/10/cal-state-system-pushes-obamacare-for-students-97947_Page2.html)

7. WHEREAS: 20 - 40 percent of the CSU system's students are uninsured, with the proportion varying by campus; and
8. WHEREAS: The federal Affordable Care Act, (ACA), often referred to as ObamaCare, provides Americans with better health security by putting in place comprehensive health insurance reforms that will expand coverage, hold insurance companies accountable, lower health care costs, guarantee more choice, and enhance the quality of care for all Americans;<sup>(1)</sup> and
9. WHEREAS: *Covered California* is the new online marketplace created to assist Californians with access to affordable, quality health insurance; and
10. WHEREAS: The ACA requires most individuals to have health coverage by January 1, 2014 or pay a penalty fee of \$95 per adult or 1% of your income, whichever is higher, in 2014;<sup>(3)</sup> and
11. WHEREAS: Some individuals may be exempt from paying a penalty, including:
  - those who have to pay more than 8% of their income for health insurance
  - those with incomes below the threshold required for filing taxes
  - those who qualify for religious exemptions
  - undocumented immigrants
  - incarcerated individuals
  - members of federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives;<sup>(4)</sup> and
12. WHEREAS: A significant expansion of Medi-Cal will allow low-income, single adults access to government subsidized health care; and
13. WHEREAS: Young adults may now stay on their parent's insurance plan up to the age of 26, instead of being covered only until age 18 or 21; and
14. WHEREAS: Insurance companies may no longer refuse or drop individuals if they have pre-existing conditions, like asthma or diabetes, or charge people more based on their medical experience or health status; and

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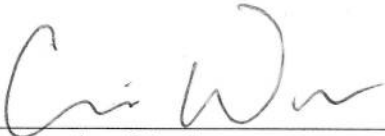
<sup>1</sup> (2)<http://www.medicaid.gov/affordablecareact/affordable-care-act.html>  
(3)<https://www.healthcare.gov/get-covered-a-1-page-guide-to-the-health-insurance-marketplace/>  
(4)<http://www.npr.org/2013/10/11/230851737/faq-understanding-the-health-insurance-mandate-and-penalties-for-going-uninsured>  
(5)<http://www.calstate.edu/coveredca/benefits/>

15. WHEREAS: The insurance offered through *Covered California* will cover:
- Preventive care at no charge
  - Primary and specialty care
  - Hospital care
  - Prescription drugs
  - Laboratory charges
  - Reproductive health;<sup>(5)</sup> and
16. WHEREAS: The open enrollment period for *Covered California* runs from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 though individuals who want coverage to start January 1 must select health plans by December 15; and
17. WHEREAS: In partnership with the Chancellor’s Office, California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) has received a *Covered California* grant of \$1.25 million to launch a statewide outreach and communications effort to all CSU students and their families labeled the “CSU Health Insurance Education Project”; and
18. WHEREAS: Through this grant, a faculty liaison and two graduate assistants have been hired and placed to serve as local liaisons on 16 of the 23 CSU campuses, including CSUN, to educate students about healthcare reform; and therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That CSUN students and their families should be aware of the increased access to healthcare coverage provided by the ACA; and let it be further
2. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. will continue to uphold its mission by advocating for the education of *Covered California* to the CSUN community; and let it be further
3. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. expresses their support for these new healthcare options and encourages the enrollment of the student body; and let it be further
4. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. will collaborate with relevant stakeholders such as the Klotz Student Health Center, Student Health Advisory Committee, Health Sciences Department, legislative offices and the CSU Chancellor’s Office in publicizing the new healthcare options to eligible CSUN students and their families prior to the December 15 deadline; and let it be further

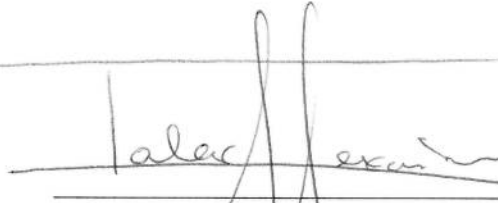
5. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. shall conduct surveys to track CSUN students' enrollment in a health insurance plan via *Covered California*; and let it be finally

6. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to the following:

- The Hon. Barack Obama, President, United States of America
- Gov. Jerry Brown, State of California
- Dr. Timothy White, Chancellor, California State Universities (CSU)
- CSU Board of Trustees
- Covered California
- U.S. / CA Department of Education
- Walter Zelman, CSULA Chairman of Health Sciences Department
- Dianne Harrison, President, CSUN
- Harold Hellenbrand, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
- William Watkins, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- Linda Reid Chassiakos, Director of Student Health Center, CSUN
- Student Health Advisory Committee, CSUN
- Health Sciences Department, CSUN
- Daily News
- CSUN Today
- The Daily Sundial



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