Hello Everybody,

I am Daniel Renteria the Chair of the Isla Vista Tenants Union and I am here with my outreach coordinator, Audrey Tamayo, and we are here speaking about the reaffirmation bill that is on the proposed ballot. I am here asking the senators to not include this constitutional amendment on the proposed ballot because it does not serve the best interests of UCSB students or our Association. In addition, I am going to read a statement on behalf of KCSB and their general managers Ally Gonzalez and Matt Merritt.

We, the 100+ students, staff and community members at 91.9 KCSB-FM in Santa Barbara, oppose the Reaffirmation Bill. In a time when tuition is increasing and state funding to public universities is in steady decline, student organizations like KCSB have limited options to get funding outside of asking students. While we agree that tuition should be reduced, we feel that this bill is not an effective way of getting there, as it targets vital student resources that account for a very small fraction of our tuition.

Whereas the bill writers have claimed that this threshold results in the blind passage of new fees, the data contradicts this. Out of 45 proposed fee increases between 2003 and 2016, twenty passed and twenty-five failed. This shows that the current threshold is working as it is intended to work. If we raise this threshold, we will needlessly put many more entities in jeopardy of not securing funding.

As we understand it, the bill writer’s stated argument is that he wants to “work within his power to reduce student fees where he can.” While this bill may reduce student fees to a degree, the services it has the potential to take away will cheapen student’s college experience in the long run.

Senate should instead be engaging with and encouraging the student body to organize against growing tuition costs: the cost of student housing, university courses, textbooks, and so on. Resources that positively improve the college experience for our students should not be the first to be targeted or dropped.

If this bill is voted upon by the student body, we are afraid that students will not receive the aforementioned context when they go to vote.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote no on this bill.

Respectfully,

KCSB

Thank you for listening to the statement. The last thing that I will mention is that I am finalizing an educational campaign to Vote No on this constitutional amendment during the spring election. I will also be finalizing the support from other Chairs tomorrow at our Chairs’ meeting. Thank you