

# Fact Sheet: AB 1098 (Fong)

## Pregnancy Protections for All Students Act

One in eight undergraduates in California are student parents, and roughly 100,000 CA undergraduates are raising a child 3 or younger.<sup>1</sup> Without strong policies to support them, pregnant students often face difficulty getting changes they need to stay healthy while continuing their studies, including accessing excused absences for medical appointments.<sup>2</sup> Students who are growing their family while in college also struggle to get time off to recover from birth or welcome a new child into their home. In 2014, the CA legislature ([AB 2350](#), Bonilla) responded to these needs by establishing parental leave and pregnancy accommodations for graduate students—but the law left out undergraduates, and relied heavily on the federally-enforced law Title IX.

**AB 1098 would finish the job by ensuring that all pregnant and parenting students in California have state anti-discrimination protections and parental leave.**

**The bill would:**

- 1 Washington-proof protections for pregnant and parenting students:**  
In 2025, robust federal Title IX protections for pregnant and parenting students were thrown out, and the Department of Education office that enforces remaining protections was gutted—closing its office in CA and leaving thousands of student complaints in limbo.<sup>3</sup> AB 1098, based in large part on the 2024 federal Title IX Rule, would build strong protections into state law so that students and educational institutions have reliable guidance and protection, regardless of changes at the federal level.
- 2 Establish a state right to pregnancy-related accommodations:**  
No pregnant student should be forced to choose between their health and their education—this bill would make sure that doesn't keep happening in our state. AB 1098 would affirm that pregnant and postpartum undergrads are entitled to reasonable accommodations, like avoiding toxic chemicals or accessing more frequent bathroom breaks, when needed. This state right already exists for graduate students.
- 3 Provide parental leave for pregnant and parenting undergraduates:**  
This bill would ensure that undergrads, like graduate students, can take leave from their studies when needed for pregnancy and childbirth recovery (12 months) or welcoming a child into their home (1 month). After taking parental leave, students must be returned to the same status they had prior to taking leave.
- 4 Ban discrimination:**  
AB 1098 affirms that it would be illegal to discriminate against students on the basis of their pregnancy or family status.
- 5 Inform students of their rights:**  
Many colleges and universities have complex processes for managing childbirth leave, health accommodations, or responding to harassment. This bill would prevent problems by requiring institutions to inform pregnant students of their rights and how to access support, and to adopt and publish written policies on how to do so.