

Fact Sheet:

AB 1784 (Pellerin)

California has at least 300,000 undergraduate student parents, a third of whom are raising children under three years old.¹ Without strong policies to support them, pregnant and parenting undergrads are often forced to withdraw, losing their education alongside their health insurance, their housing, and their children's security.

These students' challenges often start during pregnancy and early parenthood. Many pregnant students face difficulty getting the changes they need to stay healthy and stay enrolled.² And 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.

[AB 1784](#) would finish the job by ensuring that all pregnant and parenting postsecondary students have state anti-discrimination protections and parental leave.

The bill would:

- 1 Protect students from discrimination:** AB 1784 would prohibit discrimination against undergrads based on pregnancy or parenting.
- 2 Establish a state right to pregnancy-related accommodations for undergraduates:** Pregnant students and those with pregnancy-related conditions often need reasonable accommodations to stay healthy while pursuing their education, such as seating changes, permission to eat or drink, parking permits, or the ability to avoid toxic chemicals in class. Graduate students in California have had a state right to such accommodations for over a decade, and Title IX has mandated accommodations (without sufficient specificity) since the 1970s. This bill would guard students' health by including undergraduates in state protections for the first time while also adding implementation guidance needed by institutions.
- 3 Extend leave rights to undergraduates:** Graduate students in California have had leave and absence protections in state law for over a decade. AB 1784 would finally extend those same rights to undergraduates, ensuring that students can keep their place in school while recovering from childbirth or being present for their child's first days.
- 4 Ensuring student parents and faculty can find support:** The bill would require institutions to inform students of their rights, establish a designated liaison responsible for coordinating compliance, and enshrine relevant policies in writing. These provisions are critical to prevent problems before they start and enable institutions to quickly respond to discrimination before harm escalates.

With the U.S. Department of Education shuttering its civil rights offices and abandoning its work to secure education equity under Title IX,^{3,4} state action is more important than ever.