

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Sense of the Senate Resolution on
Right to Peaceful Activism and Protest on College Campuses

20-25/26-University Senate – February 17, 2026

WHEREAS: Recent domestic developments—including the mobilization of armed federal forces to respond to pro-immigrant protests and the extrajudicial killing of human beings during immigration enforcement operations—have raised serious concerns about the increasing militarization of civil governance and the erosion of civil liberties that directly impact university communities ^[1, 2]; and

WHEREAS: Students across CSU campuses have engaged in lawful activism, organizing, and protest calling for peace, divestment from militarized industries, protection of immigrant communities, and reinvestment in public education and social services ^[3]; and

WHEREAS: In April 2024, a student-led protest at Cal Poly Humboldt for Palestinian liberation was met with police aggression and resulted in a campus shutdown, raising serious concerns about the proportionality of law enforcement responses and the protection of the right to peaceful assembly within the university setting; and

WHEREAS: The long history of peaceful protest on college campuses underscores its role in advancing civil rights, social justice, and democratic accountability, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the University Senate recognizes and supports the rights of students, faculty, and staff to engage in peaceful activism, protest, and civic participation as core components of democratic education and academic freedom, and affirms the protection of campus spaces as sites of open inquiry and dissent; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be distributed to:

- The President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Richard Carvajal*;
- General Faculty President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Chris Harmon*;
- Staff Council Chair of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Kathy Hudson*;
- President of Associated Students of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Eduardo Cruz*;
- California State Student Association (CSSA);
- Chair of the Academic Senate of the California State University, *Elizabeth Boyd*;
- The Chancellor of the California State University System, *Mildred Garcia*;
- The Governor of California, *Gavin Newsom*;
- California United States Senators *Alex Padilla* and *Adam Schiff*; and

- California's Second Congressional District Representative, Congressman *Jared Huffman*.

Notes

[1] The Widespread Effects of Immigration Enforcement on Schools.

(<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-widespread-effects-of-immigration-enforcement-on-schools-in-charts/2025/11>)

[2] A Minute-by-minute Timeline of the Fatal Shooting of Alex Pretti Involving Federal Agents

(<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/minute-minute-timeline-fatal-shooting-alex-pretti-federal/story?id=129547199>)

[3] American Association of University Professors, statements on academic freedom, student activism, and campus protest.

(<https://www.aaup.org/issues/free-speech-campus>)