

Capital Fellows Sign-on Letter

November 14, 2017

Robert Nelsen
President, Sacramento State University
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Steve Boilard
Executive Director, Center for California Studies
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Dear Mr. Nelsen and Mr. Boilard:

As former Senate, Assembly, Executive and Judicial Fellows, we, like all Californians, are horrified and infuriated to learn about the experiences of the Senate Fellow who was placed in Senator Tony Mendoza's office. On November 9th, the Sacramento Bee published an article where it is alleged that the Senate Fellow was propositioned multiple times by the Senator as she was applying for a job in his office. We stand unified in our belief that no employee, including a Fellow, should ever be placed in this untenable situation.

While all details of this story are deeply problematic, we are most disturbed to learn that the person who owed her the highest duty of care displayed the least. According to accounts in the Sacramento Bee, Senate Fellows Program Director David Pacheco counseled the Fellow to wait and see if she could get a job in the office instead of reporting the harassment and acting to protect her from further harm.

We ask that Mr. Pacheco immediately be placed on leave from his position and a full inquiry into press reports regarding his actions be initiated. If it is discovered that Mr. Pacheco's behavior was in any way reflective of what has been reported, he must be terminated from his employment at the Center for California Studies. We also request the university review its policies and procedures and ensure that all employees abide by them.

The Capital Fellows Program was the start of a fulfilling career in public policy for us. As alumni of this esteemed program, we have recruited students to apply to be Capital Fellows, mentored Fellows, and contributed to the Capital Fellows alumni community. We cannot in good conscience continue to support a program that puts Fellows at risk until these problems are rectified. We respectfully ask you to quickly address these problems and help restore the Capital Fellows Program to its full honor.

Sincerely,

* Required

Email address *

Your email