



CONTACT

Communications Team, GENup
EMAIL: info@generationup.net
WEB: generationup.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2024 Policy Launch

Press release

Sacramento, California, 17 April 2024 — On April 10th, 2024, GENup hosted its third annual Policy Launch to announce the bills we will be supporting this legislative season! **GENup has 55 bills on our slate this year, including 5 bills written by GENup students and 26 bills we are cosponsoring.** We were honored to have so many incredible trailblazers in the education space speaking at this event, including California Senators Portantino, Beckman, Limón, Menjivar, and Cortese; Assemblymembers Berman, Ward, and Friedman; Delaine Eastin, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Ted Lempert, President of Children Now.

GENup's key issue areas in K-12 education reform this year are **civic engagement, environmentalism, identity equity, and mental and public health.** This year, we are proud to introduce three **GENup-written bills** — [SB 1288](#) (Becker), which would require that the Superintendent creates a working group of individuals who will discuss and judge artificial intelligence teaching and learning practices in our education system; [AB 1939](#) (Maienschein), which would mandate county and local school attendance review boards to seek input from students to address attendance and behavioral issues; and [AB 2771](#) (Maienschein), which would require that by the 2026-27 school year, the State Department of Education must post chronic absenteeism reduction methods online.

Additionally, GENup is co-sponsoring [SB 997](#) (Portantino), which would require schools to create and promote a policy for middle and high schools to carry federally approved naloxone hydrochloride nasal sprays with them in case of opioid overdose emergencies. Another notable bill GENup supports is [SB 483](#) (Cortese), which would ban prone restraint in California schools to prohibit all forms of face-down physical and mechanical restraint. In addition, GENup supports [SB 954](#) (Menjivar), which would require each public school to make condoms available to all pupils in grades 9-12 free of charge and inform pupils where they are available.

"I love seeing youth get involved," says **Assemblymember Menjivar**, author of [SB 954](#). "I'm so proud to have you all as a partner, and seeing you shift what policy we work on, because you're living the day in and day out as a young individual."

In higher education, our policy team is focused on **mental and public health, school safety, student housing and student aid, Title IX systems reform, and identity equity.** This year, **two bills written by the GENup Higher Education Policy Team** have been introduced into the legislature. [AB 456](#) (Maienschein) would require CSU and California Community College campuses, and request UC campuses, to connect their population with student-specialized mental health hotlines. And [AB 1841](#) (Weber) would require that all residential life staff at, or affiliated with, public universities be trained on

the administration of opioid reversal medication. In addition, this bill would stock university housing facilities and university-affiliated Greek life housing facilities with multiple doses of opioid reversal medication.

“We know that, in matters of an overdose, every second counts,” says **Assemblymember Weber**, author of GENup-written bill [AB 1841](#). “Having it right there, in your dorm room, where you’re living, down the hall, is going to be so important to saving lives.”

In addition, GENup is proud to lead the **SAFE Campuses Coalition**, through which we co-sponsor 10 of the 12 “Call to Action” bills based on the [A Call to Action Report](#). The package will address sex-based discrimination and provide educational justice on campus through Title IX systems reform. GENup is also proud to be a core member of the **Student HOMES Coalition**, a student-led collective of youth and higher education advocacy organizations fighting for affordable, accessible, and abundant student housing. Through HOMES, we are co-sponsoring 4 bills—[AB 3116](#) (Garcia), [SB 312](#) (Wiener), [AB 2785](#) (Wilson) and [AB 2801](#) (Friedman)—to secure an ample supply of on and off-campus student housing, to reduce barriers to education, and ensure the academic and personal success of students across California.

“I’m always honored when it comes to GENup,” says California Secretary of State **Shirley Weber**, in an inspiring speech about the work GENup does every day. “We need those very strong citizens in our community...making sure everyone knows what is going on...that they can participate, and they can make a difference in what they do. **GENup does that and continues to do that.**”

“We need the presence of young people at this time in making public policy in Sacramento,” says Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Delaine Eastin**. “**Do not be intimidated [because] you are a little younger than some of the people at the table**...you have a different perspective, and that perspective is needed.”

According to **Anya Ayyappan**, Student Board Member on the State Board of Education, “there have been several times where I’ve entered rooms and spaces that are adult dominated...As a student, what do I have to offer?...**Students coming together like in [GENup] drives that change forward** and allows us to improve constantly, to bridge inequities, and uncover disparities and problems. [Also,] our lack of expertise can [allow us] to be really creative, to look at things from a new angle.”

More information on GENup’s 2024 policy initiatives can be found on our [2024 Legislative Summary](#) or at www.generationup.net. A recording of the event is available at [this link](#).

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