



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

May 10, 2019  
The Honorable Mark Stone  
State Capitol, Room 3146  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 376 - Student Borrower Bill of Rights**

Dear Assembly Member Stone,

The California Association of REALTORS® (C.A.R.) is pleased to support your bill, AB 376, the Student Borrower Bill of Rights.

Homeownership is one of the only real paths for hardworking Californians to achieve wealth and lasting financial security. Unfortunately, according to joint research from the National Association of Realtors® (N.A.R.) and the nonprofit American Student Assistance, rising student loan debt is having a negative effect on millennial borrowers' ability to enter the homebuying market. The 2017 study found that only 20 percent of millennials currently own a home and are typically carrying a total student loan debt that exceeds their annual income. Among the 80 percent who do not own a home, 83 percent believe that their student loan debt is affecting their ability to buy. In California alone, borrowers owe \$134.3 billion dollars in student loans. Student loan debt is a crisis that is threatening the health of our economy and the future well being of our young workforce who did what they thought was the right thing by investing in their educations.

To that end, AB 376 follows up on your bill, AB 2251, the Student Loan Servicing Act to continue to ensure that borrowers are treated fairly by their loan servicers. AB 376 prohibits abusive practices by loan servicers. The bill also creates a Student Borrower Advocate here in California to serve as an advocate in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. for borrowers who have complaints about loan servicing companies. C.A.R. supports your continued efforts in this arena to ensure that borrowers are educated about their loans, protected from abusive practices, and have an advocate to serve as their voice.

If you or a member of your staff have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (916) 492-5200 or [annab@car.org](mailto:annab@car.org).

Sincerely,

Anna Buck  
Legislative Advocate