

Dear _____,

I am a parent of a UC Berkeley student, and I am writing because I am deeply concerned with the housing conditions provided for students in on campus housing. My student has personally experienced _____ [lack of hot water, mold, broken heater, etc.] _____, issues which are very common among students living in the dorms.

The lack of response and initiative to fix these issues is appalling. Many students, even when they do file a maintenance request as instructed, do not ever see their issues resolved. Since they are busy with the trials and tribulations of college life, most students accept the adverse conditions, and do not follow through with work orders.

This needs to change. Students should not need to fight for basic housing rights promised in their housing contracts and in California code. According to California Health and Safety Codes, "an adequate, protected, pressurized, potable supply of hot water and cold water shall be provided. Hot water shall be supplied at a minimum temperature of at least 120°F measured from the faucet" (HSC § 114192). Many students are finding themselves without hot water despite this.

According to the Cal Housing Contract, "Maintenance is included in your housing contract. When you need something repaired, submit a work order or Maintenance Request (log in with your CalNet ID)." I hope that in the future, Cal Housing works to hold up their end of the housing contract.

In addition, at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, a student had a health crisis and was in need of an AED, yet when paramedics arrived on the scene it was nowhere to be found.

The urgency of this matter stems beyond simple maintenance issues. The neglect of the housing facilities poses a direct threat to student safety. I hope that you understand the importance behind this issue, and take steps to protect the students we entrusted in your care. Please act to ensure students' living conditions are up to code, and have their safety on the forefront of your agenda.

Sincerely,
[your name]