



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Statement about the Importance of Mills College**

**Oakland, CA** -- Oakland Councilmember At-Large, Vice-Mayor Rebecca Kaplan, a longtime advocate for women's rights and LGBT rights, and educational access and equity, issues the following Statement about Mills College.

“Since its opening in Oakland in 1872, Mills College has empowered women, a mission set by its founders, Susan and Cyrus Mills, champions of women's rights. Mills has been at the forefront of removing barriers and promoting women's opportunity, and has educated and trained multiple important leaders who have contributed significantly to our communities. Mills was the first women's college to offer a computer science major in 1974. Further, in 2014, it became the first women's college who openly welcomed transgender students. In recent years, 44% of Mills scholars were first-generation undergraduate students, many were LGBTQ undergraduate students, and 66% undergraduate students identified as BIPOC.

At a time when BIPOC, LGBTQ, and women's rights are under attack, from perpetrators ranging from the “Proud Boys,” to the Supreme Court, it is vital that we listen to impacted communities, alumni, and students when they advocate for transparency in such an important community institution. Community members, students, and alumni have shared significant concerns about lack of transparency and allegations of false information, including regarding finances, that were used to push for a sale, and the undermining of programs for students.

Therefore, I am joining with many in the community, in calling for an independent investigation to be conducted into these issues.

I am greatly concerned with the allegations of misconduct and misinformation, and believe it is important to ensure that these issues are fully reviewed to ensure that community needs are respected and truth is pursued, and that the important work of Mills in serving vital needs can be perpetuated.”

In addition, Statement from the Save Mills Coalition can be found at [Link to the Save Mills' Press Release](#)

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*Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan is an honors graduate from MIT and Stanford Law, and serves as Oakland's citywide Councilmember. Last year she was unanimously elected as Council President by her colleagues.*