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ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT**SB 1210 (Lara) – Assembly Third Reading – File #237**

August 20, 2014

TO: Members of the California State Assembly

Re: SB 1210 (Lara), as Amended on August 18, 2014
Position: SUPPORT (SPONSOR)

The University of California (UC) is pleased to sponsor and support SB 1210 (Lara). This bill establishes a campus-based California DREAM Loan Program to serve UC and CSU students who qualify for a nonresident tuition exemption under AB 540 but who lack access to federal student loans.

SB 1210 addresses one of the remaining hurdles for these students: a significant gap in their financial aid package created by their inability to qualify for federal loans. Undocumented students who are exempt from paying Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) under AB 540 and who are eligible for State and institutional financial aid under AB 130 and AB 131 still lack access to federal student loans. As a result, they have a “gap” in their financial aid packages of roughly \$3,000 to \$6,000 that other students with similar financial circumstances do not have.

By making AB 540 students eligible for a State educational loan, SB 1210 would help place these students on a more equal footing with other needy students and would enhance their access to the University. To reiterate, this is about leveling the financial aid playing field, not about providing benefits to one group that is not already available to others.

SB 1210 requires more than a State investment in these students. In addition to requiring that each institution is responsible for originating, servicing and collecting on the loans, SB 1210 requires each institution to contribute to its own loan pool on a 1:1 matching basis. This guarantees institutions will have an incentive to administer the program responsibly and to minimize defaults.

Through their hard work and perseverance, these students have earned the opportunity to attend UC. Their accomplishments should not be disregarded or their future jeopardized because of their legal status. Should you have any questions about the University’s position as the sponsor of this bill, please do not hesitate to contact Nadia Leal-Carrillo at (916) 445-9924.

UC urges an “AYE” vote on SB 1210 (Lara)