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March 8, 2011

The Honorable Marty Block, Chair
Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 131 (Cedillo), as introduced on January 11, 2011
Scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Higher Education Committee
on March 15, 2011
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Block:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 131. The bill would allow for all students who qualify for a nonresident tuition exemption under AB 540, including those who are undocumented, to participate in the Cal Grant Entitlement award program.

The University supported AB 540 because we believe that students who attended and graduated from high school in California, but are not legal residents, should have access to higher education, and nonresident fee levels served as a barrier to their participation. AB 131 addresses one of the remaining hurdles for these students: their inability to receive state aid.

By making AB 540 students eligible for the Cal Grant Entitlement program, AB 131 would help place these students on a more equal footing with other needy students and would enhance their access to the University.

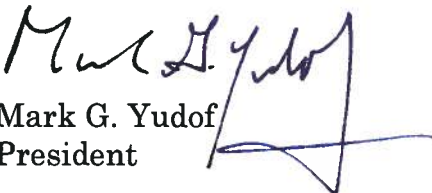
If the bill were enacted, UC estimates that approximately 800 undergraduate students eligible under AB 540 would meet the requirements for participation in the Cal Grant Entitlement program.

These students are demonstrably among the best and brightest on our campuses--highly motivated to succeed despite all the obstacles they face. 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.

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Once again, we thank you for your continued commitment to higher education and for your consideration of the University's views.

Sincerely yours,


Mark G. Yudof
President

cc: The Honorable Gilbert Cedillo
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Provost Lawrence Pitts
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Dan Dooley
Vice President Judy Sakaki
Vice President Patrick Lenz
Associate Vice President Steve Juarez