



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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June 20, 2011

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Chair
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 131 (Cedillo), as amended on May 27, 2011
Scheduled to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on June 22, 2011
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lowenthal:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 131. This bill would allow for all students who qualify for a nonresident tuition exemption under AB 540, including those who are undocumented, to apply for institutional aid at UC, the California State University and the California Community Colleges, as well as any student financial aid program administered by the State of California such as Cal Grants.

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 and institutional aid.

By making AB 540 students eligible for both institutional aid and 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 was enacted, UC estimates that approximately 800 undergraduate students eligible under AB 540 would meet the requirements for participation in the Cal Grant Entitlement program. In addition, another 390-488 students would qualify for \$3.7 to \$4.6 million in institutional aid.

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.

As always, the University appreciates your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions on the University's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Leal-Carrillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nadia" being the most prominent part.

Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Gilbert Cedillo
Members, Senate Education Committee
President Mark G. Yudof
Provost Lawrence Pitts
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Daniel M. Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez