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SENATE FLOOR ALERT

SB 21 (Kalra) – Senate Third Reading - File #266

September 12, 2017

TO: Members of the California State Senate

Re: AB 21 (Kalra), as amended September 8, 2017
Position: SUPPORT

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support, AB 21. This bill would require the California State University (CSU), California Community Colleges (CCC) and each Cal Grant eligible independent institution of higher education, and request UC, to ensure they have policies and procedures that mitigate the impacts of immigration enforcement activities on campuses and support students, faculty, and staff who may be affected.

UC has consistently supported efforts to provide resources and create a supportive community at each campus for undocumented students. Currently, each UC campus provides an array of services to undocumented students and has designated a staff or faculty member to serve as their primary contact. All UC campuses have a specified physical space where undocumented students can seek assistance in balancing their academics with other day-to-day challenges they may face. A range of support services are offered– from academic and personal counseling to financial aid and legal advising. Each campus also has a student group, club or organization where undocumented students can find an encouraging peer network.

Following the recent presidential election, on November 30, 2016, UC issued its *Statement of Principles in Support of Undocumented Members of the UC Community*, emphasizing its continued commitment to vigorously protect the privacy and civil rights of the undocumented members of the UC community and to direct its police departments not to undertake joint efforts with any government agencies to enforce federal immigration law. Additional efforts include the formation of the Workgroup on the Undocumented/AB 540 Members of the UC Community to evaluate possible changes in federal policy and consider what actions the University may take to ensure that UC remains a welcoming environment for all and that it provides equal access and opportunity for undocumented members of the UC community.

In addition, the UC Office of the President issued guidance to campuses immediately following President Trump’s executive orders banning entry to the United States by people from certain designated countries, as well as guidance for employees about possible federal immigration enforcement actions on University property. Furthermore, UC Office of the President developed and provided to campus Undocumented Student Service Centers wallet-sized “Know Your Rights” pamphlets, to inform undocumented students about their rights should they be approached by immigration enforcement officers.

UC requests your AYE vote on AB 21 because it is consistent with UC’s practices and continuing efforts to support undocumented students, and we thank Assembly Member Kalra for his leadership on these important issues.

UC urges an “AYE” vote on AB 21 (Kalra)