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March 27, 2018

The Honorable Jose Medina
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2477 (Rubio/Low), as introduced February 14, 2018
Scheduled to be heard by Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 3, 2018
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Medina:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 2477. The bill would require the California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State University (CSU), and request UC, to designate a Dream Resource Liaison on each of their respective campuses to assist students, including undocumented students, by streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities commencing with the 2019-20 academic year. AB 2477 also would authorize the CCC Board of Governors, the CSU Trustees and the UC Regents to seek and accept gifts, bequests, or donations to aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resources Centers for their respective systems.

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 most recent presidential election, on November 30, 2016, UC issued its *Statement of Principles in Support of Undocumented Members of the UC Community*, emphasizing our 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.

The UC Office of the President has also issued guidance to campuses immediately following President Trump's executive orders banning visa processing on entry to the United States from designated countries, campus guidance for employees about possible federal immigration enforcement actions on University property, and continually updated guidance related to the repeal of DACA. Furthermore, the UC Office of the President developed and provided to campus Undocumented Student Service Centers wallet-sized "Know Your Rights" pamphlets, to inform undocumented student about their rights should they be approached by immigration enforcement officers.

Most recently, UC further helped an estimated 4000 undocumented students, many of whom are DACA recipients, by filing a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shortly after the Trump administration announced the termination of the DACA program and its intention to wind-down the program by March 5, 2018. The U.S. District Court in San Francisco granted a temporary injunction to stop DHS's rescission of DACA and ordered the federal government to resume renewing DACA and work authorizations. DHS appealed this decision to the Supreme Court, which decided not to hear the appeal – thus DACA renewals were ordered to continue despite the original March 5th date. All of the University's formal statements, published guidance, FAQs, and campus services information are available on a system wide UC Information on Immigration website found at: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/immigration>.

UC supports AB 2477 because it is consistent with UC's practices and continuing efforts to support undocumented students, and we thank Assembly Member Rubio and Assembly Member Low for their leadership on these important issues.

Thank you for your consideration of the University of California's views. If you have any questions about our support position on AB 2477, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-5579.

Sincerely,



Tyler Aguilar
Legislative Director

cc: Vice Chair and Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
Assemblymember Evan Low
President Janet Napolitano
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava