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April 28, 2016

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support AB 2009 (Lopez, as of 2/16/2016) Student support services:
Dream Resource Liaisons**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is writing to express our support for AB 2009 (Lopez), which would require the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and would request the University of California to designate a Dream Resource Liaison on each of their respective campuses . . . to assist students meeting specified requirements, including undocumented students, by streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for those students.

This bill would incur at most minor and absorbable costs that would be more than worthwhile in light of the benefits it would provide to students throughout California.

The number of undocumented students attending public institutions of higher education in California has risen since the passing of AB 540 (Firebaugh, 2001), the California Dream Act of 2011, and the Federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The Undocuscholar Project study reports that students with access to organizations, centers, or campus resources report over 70% usage rate and stress the importance of having those services on their campus to alleviate their concerns about how to afford college, academic performance, and fear about who they can trust at their campus regarding their legal status because of the negative treatment they receive due to being undocumented. Yet, many California institutions of higher education do not offer specific student services, resource centers, or designated employees to support undocumented students and provide key information.

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

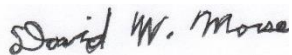
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AB 2009 would require California public colleges and universities to establish "Dream Resource Liaisons" at their campuses to provide support and resources to undocumented students. These essential services could provide invaluable assistance to nearly incalculable numbers of students. This bill could therefore make a significant impact on student success and, by enhancing completion and graduation rates, benefit the workforce and the economy of the state of California.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 2009 (Lopez, as of 02/16/16). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



David Morse

President

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Patty Lopez

Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee