12 March 2016
Associated Students of University of California, Irvine
G-244 Student Center
CA, Irvine, 92697

RE: AB 2009 (López)
POSITION: Support

Dear Assemblywoman López,

On behalf of, the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 2009 (López), which will encourage California public high schools, colleges, and universities to establish “Dream Resource Centers” and require college campuses to have a designated staff person known as the “Dream Resource Liaison” to provide undocumented students with adequate support during their educational journey.

Since the implementation of AB 540, CA Dream Act, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and other pieces of meaningful legislation, access and affordability to California’s institutions of higher education has become more obtainable for the undocumented student in the state. However, there are still many unique barriers that this student population faces due to their legal status.

AB 2009 will create a centralized and trusted space for undocumented students to access available resources and opportunities. These centers will create a welcoming environment that will encourage more undocumented youth to pursue post – secondary education to prepare them to enter California’s demanding work force. AB 2009 will give students the ability to interact with knowledgeable staff that will be well versed of the psychological, academic, and legal issues this population faces.

This bill continues to build on the investment and actions that the Legislature has taken to ensure immigrant youth are able to attain higher education. Thus, it is essential that California continues to direct its institutions of higher education to foster campus climates that will be supportive towards marginalized student populations that will allow all students to focus on their educational goals rather than unnecessary barriers. It is for these reasons my organization strongly supports AB 2009.

Sincerely,

Parshan Khosravi
President, Associated Students of University of California, Irvine