Dear Coordinators & Directors,

Below you will find updates and information on the following topics: I. Litigation: Texas tuition equity law; II. State policy: current legislative proposals; III. Federal policy: DACA filings online and USCIS guidance on expedited EADs for healthcare and childcare workers; and IV. ICYMI: UCImm Immigrant Workers’ Rights webinar recording; DHS withdraws Trump-era rule that expanded quick deportations; Biden’s new asylum process; Cameroon designated for TPS; and new book release, Illegally Yours: A Memoir.

I. Litigation: Texas tuition equity law

On April 8, a federal court struck down Texas' tuition equity law, which had allowed undocumented students to pay in-state tuition fees. Understandably, there is concern regarding the legal status of AB540 and other states' tuition equity laws. However, based on our analysis, it is highly unlikely that AB540 would be deemed illegal based on the Texas court ruling.

Federal law dictates that an undocumented student cannot be eligible for a postsecondary education benefit based on "residence" within a State unless U.S. citizens/nationals are also eligible for the benefit. Texas's tuition equity law contains language that classifies undocumented college students that have attended high school in Texas as "residents." In addition, the Texas law does not allow U.S. citizens/nationals to benefit from the non-resident tuition exemption. In California, the drafters of AB540 were careful to not base tuition equity on "residence" and made sure that all students (including U.S. citizens/nationals) who attended California schools can qualify for AB540, not just undocumented individuals.

II. State policy: current legislative proposals

Below is a list of bills that are currently going through policy and fiscal committee reviews:

- **SB 1141** (Limon) Equitable AB 540 Implementation: This bill would reduce the total years of full-time attendance in certain California schools, the years of full-time high school coursework in California, and the total years of attendance in California elementary schools and California secondary schools required from 3 or more years to 2 or more years. See Fact Sheet attached.
- **AB 2004** (C. Garcia) California DREAM Loan Program: This bill would increase the DREAM Loan amounts for graduate students, ensure that student borrowers have access to comprehensive
financial and borrowing education, and ensure student borrowers are offered all forms of relief that federal loan student borrowers are eligible for, including loan forgiveness, deferment, discharge, forbearance, repayment, and administrative relief. See Fact Sheet attached.

- **AB 2652 (McCarty) Food Support Pilot Program:** This bill would require the Student Aid Commission to establish a state-funded Food Support Pilot Program to provide California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) benefits to students who submit a California Dream Act Application.

- **AB 1746 (Medina) Cal Grant Reform Act:** This Cal Grant equity framework would simplify and expand the Cal Grant program, potentially serving more than 150,000 additional students including student-parents, adult learners, and CA Dream Act Application filers.

## III. Federal policy

**DACA filings online:** Earlier this month, USCIS announced that DACA recipients can now renew online. As always, we recommend that individuals consult with a qualified immigration attorney before filing.

**USCIS guidance on expedited EADs for healthcare and childcare workers:** We previously noted that healthcare workers were eligible for expedited employment authorization documents; please note that childcare workers are also eligible.

## IV. ICYMI

- This month UCImm hosted a UC-wide webinar: Immigrant Workers' Rights, presented by Golden Gate University School of Law Women's Employment Rights Clinic. The webinar recording will soon be posted to our website and is also available by request - email anna.ucimm@law.ucdavis.edu.

- **DHS withdraws Trump-era rule that expanded quick deportations**

- **Biden’s New Asylum Process: What You Need to Know**

- On April 15, the Department of Homeland Security designated Cameroon for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months.

- Book Release - July 12: *Illegally Yours: A Memoir* by Rafael Agustin. Agustin is a formally undocumented student, a Mt. San Antonio College alum, a Bruin, a former writer for Jane the Virgin, and the Latino Film Institute CEO. "Agustin makes a splashy debut with this humorous account of coming-of-age, undocumented, in Southern California." Agustin is available for speaking engagements and can be contacted at rafa1026@gmail.com.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,
The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team

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