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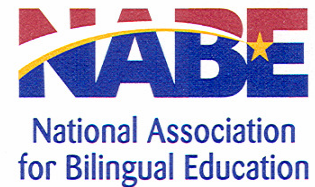
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October 9, 2011

Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of the State California
California State Capitol, Ste 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) is extremely grateful and pleased with the action you took in signing the California Dream Act (AB131) authored by Assemblymember Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles) that allows top students who are on the path to citizenship to apply for college financial aid. This legislation builds upon (AB 130), also authored by Assemblymember Cedillo, and equally signed into law by you on July 25, 2011. These two laws combined, send a very powerful message to the rest of the nation that students matter, diversity matters, biliteracy matters and bilingual education matters. It further validates the commitment of the State of California to be in an enviable position to support one of its major intellectual assets, its promising immigrant students who are committed, dedicated and highly motivated to become contributing members of our society. By lawfully recognizing these students, California has positioned itself to become one of the nation's most globally competitive and creative economic engines that will out-educate, out-innovate and out-compete the rest of the nation and the world. Of equal importance is your approval signature on AB 815 (Brownley), the State Seal of Biliteracy for Students graduating from California schools who are fluently bilingual and biliterate.

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) is a national organization based in Silver Springs, MD. The organization is represented by 22 state affiliates of over 3,000 Bilingual Education teachers and administrators. For the past 41 years, NABE has been committed to excellence in bilingualism and biliteracy education for all students through enriched educational programs, professional and leadership development for teachers, administrators, professors, policy makers and parents. Our mission is to advocate and cultivate a multilingual society promoting policy, pedagogy and research that validates and respects cultural and linguistic diversity that ensures an equitable educational opportunity for all students. NABE is committed to promoting programs and agendas that prepare our nation's students to be fluently bilingual, technologically creative, globally competitive and well-rounded world citizens. Over the past four decades, NABE has provided more than 50 thousand hours of professional development and leadership training in Bilingual Education; 150 Title VII Fellowships, 400 students and teacher scholarships, and numerous hours of Parent education and Special Interest Group (SIG) training. The California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) is one of our organization's largest affiliates.

The NABE Executive Board once again commends your leadership and vision in acknowledging the importance of making college accessible and affordable for every student. NABE admires your highly supportive comments in signing these two pieces of legislation. "Going to college is a dream that promises intellectual excitement and creative thinking. The Dream Act benefits us all by giving top students a chance to improve their lives and the lives of all of us." This statement is very symbolic of your ability to honor and to recognize the important value that your immigrant population plays in the economic and education dynamics of the state of California.

Best Regards,

RB
Dr. Rossana Ramirez Boyd, President

cc: California Association for Bilingual Education

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