

# Pilipino po tayo!

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## AA Groups file legal brief supporting...

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Ocampo.

AB 540 exempts undocumented students who attended a California high school for at least three years and graduated from paying non-resident tuition at University of California, California State Universities and community colleges.

According to APALC, about 50 percent of documented and undocumented students receiving tuition break under AB 540 are Asian and Pacific Islanders, with more than 10 percent being Filipinos.

In 2005, a group representing out of state students claimed that undocumented students should not pay in state tuition because they have no legal status and it takes away from out-of-state US citizens who have to pay more.

The current cost to attend a UC school for in state residents is about \$11,000; out-of-state students pay about triple that amount.

Ocampo said since many undocumented students don't qualify for financial aid, AB 540 is their only hope to receive higher education.

"Undocumented students have this right now but these groups are trying to take it away so these students they grew up here just like their peers and they just want to go to college just like any other student," she said.

Ocampo added that undocumented Filipino students would benefit from AB 540. However, parents are either reluctant to speak openly about



Students, faculty and staff members hold up signs protesting against fee increases and pay cuts at the UCLA Bruin Plaza on September 24. AJPress Photo by Miko Santos

their child's undocumented status or unaware that this kind of financial break is open for them.

She said in filing this brief the organization wanted to send out a strong message about the importance of education for undocumented youth.

#### Fil-Ams among thousands to protest cut backs and higher fees

Hundreds of students, teachers and University of California employees at UCLA walked out during the first day of classes to protest the recent UC and state budget cuts.

"The quality of our education is going down," said Fil-Am Jan Victor Andasan, a 19-year-old

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