

DREAM Act

Legalization for Students – (based on HR 1275 submitted to the House on 3/1/07)

Who is eligible?

Those who would qualify under this act include undocumented immigrants who meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Graduated from a United States high school by the time they apply for relief.
- Must have lived continuously in the United States for a minimum of 5 years, on the date of the DREAM Act enactment.
- Can demonstrate good moral character and do not have a criminal record.
- Attended a college or university for two years, or served in the U, S, military for two years.

What are the benefits for those who qualify?

- Lawful permanent resident status (a green card)
- Access to federal financial aid
- States will be permitted to allow eligible students to obtain resident tuition status

Why is this necessary?

The DREAM Act would address the immigration status and educational barriers confronted by U.S.-raised children of undocumented immigrants.

- Currently, there are 2.7 million immigrant children in U.S. schools grade K-12 and of those 1 million are undocumented immigrants.
- Every year 50-65,000 students graduate from American high schools, but face limited prospects for continuing their education because they were originally brought to the United States by parents lacking immigration status. Among these students are valedictorians, honors students and student leaders.
- Many students are prevented from attending college because they cannot afford out-of-state tuition and do not qualify for Pell grants or student loans. In addition, without a lawful permanent resident “green card” students are not eligible for many scholarships, in-state tuition, federal loans, or grants.

What you can do to support the DREAM Act:

- Join immigrant organizing groups
- Sign and distribute petitions
- Urge your elected officials to support the DREAM Act
- If you are a student, join one of the student groups who are doing such great work to make the DREAM Act a reality.
- Join other groups either at your church (e.g. there are faith-based organizing groups such as PICO – see www.PICO.org) or community-based groups (for Bay Area send an e mail to lupitasiordia@aol.com)