



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

TESTIMONY OF MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
SCOTT M. STRINGER

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND  
THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing on City Council Resolution calling on Congress to pass and  
President Obama to Sign the DREAM Act

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I commend the Committee Chairs, Councilmembers Dromm and Rodriguez, for holding this hearing on such an important reform for many New Yorkers.

I share your outrage at anti-immigrant sentiment in parts of the Senate that prevented the DREAM Act from moving forward yesterday. The DREAM Act has historically been a bipartisan endeavor but in a shameful display of partisan politics, many Senators have turned their backs on immigrant youth and principled consensus.

As Manhattan Borough President, I proudly represent the historical entryway for generations of immigrants and over a half million immigrants who make up 30 percent of our borough. Our city and country flourish because of the positive contributions of immigrants to our economic, cultural, social, and civic life.

Since I took office, one of my priorities has been to promote the full and equal participation of immigrant communities in our city. In 2006, I convened an Immigrant Rights Task Force to address the lack of resources and support for immigrants to access services and benefits and enforce their legal rights. This past June, my office released the Immigrant Rights and Services Manual, a unique and comprehensive tool for immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, that explains legal rights, public benefits eligibility and public programs and services in an accessible way.

The problems we see immigrants face in our city is only a microcosm of the greater story of a broken national immigration system. The DREAM Act would provide long awaited reform for deserving communities in our city and nation. Each year, approximately 75,000 hard-working immigrant students graduate from high school across the country, but are unable to access post-secondary education, obtain federal financial assistance or secure work because of their status.

In 2007, my office launched the Civic Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship to help provide opportunity and support for immigrant youth, including undocumented youth, in higher education. Civic Leaders places college students in internships with immigrant rights organizations to develop their civic leadership and enhance the advocacy work of these organizations. Civic Leaders also provides a stipend to the students to support their ability to intern and attend college. Our key partner in Civic Leaders of Tomorrow is the New York State Youth Leadership Council, whose mission is to promote the DREAM Act, work with immigrant youth and train immigrant youth to conduct policy advocacy. Through Civic Leaders, the Youth Leadership Council trains our fellows on advocacy and promoting the DREAM Act.

In order to move our city and country forward in a global society, we must provide all youths like the Civic Leaders fellows the opportunity to realize their full potential as Americans and to be contributing members of our city.

Passage of the DREAM Act would benefit many thousands of students in New York City alone, including an estimated 10,000 City University of New York (CUNY) students. The bill would offer a clear path to citizenship for hard-working immigrant youth and allow them to complete higher education or serve in the military. Passing the DREAM Act will bring these young people fully into the formal economy which will in turn grow our skilled workforce and increase tax revenues. It will deter them from the risk of dropping out of school or other harmful paths. In many cases, these young people know of no other country but the U.S. as their home. They have invested the same hard work and faith in our society as other Americans and we must provide them with the chance to succeed.

The DREAM Act is an important step towards finding a serious solution to our immigration system and integrating our society, restoring legitimacy to our laws, and treating immigrants with dignity. Again, I am deeply outraged with failure of the Senate to move to consider the DREAM Act yesterday. However, we must continue to find ways to pass the DREAM Act as well as to achieve comprehensive immigration reform.

I look forward to working with the City Council and communities of the city to keep up the momentum to pass the DREAM Act and pursue additional ways of supporting all immigrant youth and immigrants in our city.

Thank you for your commitment to this matter.

**Testimony by Walter Barrientos**  
**before**  
**The New York City Council**  
**Immigration Committee**  
**and**  
**Higher Education Committee**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

Good morning, my name is Walter Barrientos and I am currently a second year graduate student at the School of Public Affairs, Baruch College. I am here today because until very recently the DREAM Act was my only hope of not being deported and obtaining immigration status, and as such I know first hand the difference that having immigration status makes in attaining higher education.

I am originally from Guatemala. My parents, sister and I came to New York in 1996 after my parents' business went bankrupt in Guatemala, we lost our home and they could no longer afford to send my sister and I to school. We arrived on tourist visas. It was our last resort and it was here in New York where we had the only family members who could help us. My parents were determined to work as hard as they could while my sister and I got an education, our ticket to a better life. My parents worked 18-hour days doing everything from making food to sell, collecting bottles to recycle, to construction and cleaning houses and factories.

Five years after we arrived in 2001, my aunt was able to become a citizen and petitioned for my mother, including my sister and I. Although the application was approved shortly after it was filed, it was not until last month, August 2010 that a visa became available for my mom's petition to proceed. While my mother's application was pending my sister and I "aged out" of her application since we are both older than 21 now.

While my mom's application was pending I graduated high school in 2002 ranking 5<sup>th</sup> in my class. I was able to attend Baruch College where I got my Bachelor's degree in business administration because in that fall the state passed a law allowing undocumented New York high school graduates like me to pay in-state tuition regardless of our immigration status. Given my lack of immigration status at the time, I could not receive any scholarships nor could I apply for any student loans or other programs that were offered to me. If it was not for this law I probably would not have been able to attend college right out of high school and would definitely not be a graduate student today. My parents rented rooms in the house we rented, and we all worked doing any job that came by so we could afford my college education. I made copies of every book I needed for my classes, took as many courses per semester as I was allowed within one semester to graduate quicker and save money.

I received my undergraduate degree in May of 2006 but unlike most of my other friends and fellow graduates I was not legally employable. I decided to dedicate my time to educating and empowering other immigrant youth in New York to know how to apply to college regardless of their immigration status like I had done and on how to continue to fight to make the DREAM Act pass. During this time I had no choice than to work in the underground economy to support myself while I was going to school. My parents continued to support me because they knew that

in fighting for the rights and opportunities for immigrant youth, I was also fighting for the dignity of all the immigrant parents who sacrifice life as they know it to come to the United States so their children can have a better life—the American Dream.

My immigration status changed because I was a victim of an assault in Jackson Heights last year and I was granted a U Visa as a victim of a violent crime. I am now protected from deportation, with a work permit, and a social security number, and in a few years will be able to apply for a green card. If all goes well and immigration laws do not change for the worse I should be becoming a U.S. citizen by 2020, 24 years after my arrival in the United States in 1996.

Although I am still not a permanent resident, being protected from deportation and being able to work legally have completely changed my life as I had come to know it after living in New York without immigration status since the age of 11. The biggest difference is knowing that I can no longer just be detained and be deported because of a random stop by the police or being at the wrong place at the wrong time. I can now really embrace my home and my life here as my own and not as something that's been borrowed to me and that can be taken away swiftly. I am no longer to the exploitation and harsh working conditions that many of this city's undocumented people are subjected to, many of whom are parents of CUNY students and CUNY students themselves working to pursue their dreams and a better tomorrow. In many ways I feel as though at the age of 25 I turned 16. Because just now at 25 I was able to go to DMV and start driving, and I was able to start working. Now as hard as grad school is, life feels so much lighter. I am able to focus on my studies as a pursue a career working to bring more opportunities to my community and to young people to pursue higher education and a better life here in New York and in the United States as a whole.

While I consider myself incredibly lucky and privileged to have some protection from deportation and being able to work legally and pursue my graduate education. I believe these are protections all immigrant students growing up in the United States should have. While there are many of us who have struggled against all odds to graduate from CUNY colleges and community colleges while being undocumented, there are at least 5 of our classmates who have given up along the way throughout our high school years or who could no longer go on to the finish line in college with us. Many times it comes down to the finances but more often than not it is the weight of realizing that no matter how hard we may work and believe in ourselves there are laws that literally prevent us from living our dreams and promise to keep us hidden in the underground economy. This is why I know that the DREAM Act is a necessity for our families, communities, for our cities, and for our state. Without the DREAM Act we have federal immigration laws invalidating the sacrifices of our families and the investment of our communities in young people who are committed to a better life for themselves and for their communities. Holding back promising youth is never a good proposition, but it is specially not a good proposition in these times of dire need for a diverse and innovative pool of leaders and strivers to take our nation to reach new heights.

Thank you for supporting the DREAM Act and for standing up for New York City's immigrant youth, families, and communities. Thank you for doing your part to ensure that the DREAM Act is passed this year.

Testimony to the  
Higher Education Committee  
Of the City Council  
Of  
The City of New York  
Joint Committees on Immigration and Higher Education

September 22, 2010

My name is Eduardo Martí, and I currently serve as the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges for the City University of New York. I am testifying today on behalf of the proposed resolution No. 409: calling on Congress to pass and President Obama to sign the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2009 (the "DREAM Act") or to incorporate provisions of the DREAM Act in a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill in order to provide immigration relief to undocumented immigrant students pursuing higher education.

Permit me to express my deep appreciation to the City Council for considering this enlightened resolution. You have always been a friend of public education. Your support of CUNY has been consistent and, even in the times of most difficult fiscal constraints your actions have demonstrated your appreciation for the connection between education and the economy. CUNY has always been an economic engine for New York City and you are always there ensuring that it continues to provide an effective education for all New Yorkers. Further, the community colleges of CUNY, with the Open Admissions Policy, provide ready access to our great University. It is through these portals of entry provided by the CUNY community colleges that many immigrants have been able to start the path toward a better life, from perfecting their language skills, to preparing themselves to navigate this very complex society in which we live.

As our Chancellor, Matthew Goldstein, has said in a letter to the Congressional Leadership demonstrating his long standing support of the DREAM Act:

“Our experience in The City University of New York teaches us that our undocumented students are among those with the greatest potential to play leading roles in scholarship, public service, and economic leadership. Among them are honors students, class presidents, star athletes, talented artist, and aspiring teachers, doctors, scientist, poets and U.S. soldiers. As the demand for talented college-trained workers increases, we need these students as full participants in our society.”

\*\*\*

I can speak to you on this topic from the heart. I am an immigrant. I came from Cuba 50 years ago on a visitor's visa and had it not been for my ability to gain legal status by asking for political asylum, I could have easily been an undocumented immigrant.

Through hard work I was able to complete my education and gain the skills to be a productive citizen. Frankly, I could have gone in different directions, but when I started my first job teaching at BMCC in 1966, I fell in love with the community college concept. This uniquely American, egalitarian system of post-secondary education is truly extraordinary. I have dedicated my professional life to this sector of higher education. I am the only person who has been a president of both SUNY community colleges and a CUNY community college. For over 28 years, I served as a community college president. Now, I have the privilege of being the first CUNY Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges.

As someone who cares deeply about access and quality, I can attest, first hand, as to the impact community colleges have on the thousands of immigrant students whom we serve. Many come to us not knowing what to expect from the college experience, many come to us with need for remediation or English as a Second Language, many come to us with



no clear understanding of the myriad of possibilities that this society provides. Community colleges and their dedicated faculty provide a safe haven. It has been said that community colleges are the "Ellis Islands" of education. You understand the "immigrant experience." You know what it means to be in a strange land, not knowing the language, not understanding the mores of the society. You know what it means to try to find a job in difficult economic markets. You know how comforting it is to be in a place where people care about your success; where people want you to gain the knowledge and the skills to better yourself. You know how important CUNY is to NYC.

We provide the basis for citizenship through a thorough understanding of the human condition and through training for a good job. Many students demonstrate incredible determination; in fact, it can be said that these are the "new pioneers." And, while they may not be going West on covered wagons they are surely embarking on a long and arduous educational trek. But just as before, every wave of immigrants brings a

new richness to our culture that is the basis of our society. And, CUNY is the place where immigrants become educated citizens.

But it is not easy. While New York State and, therefore CUNY, are among only 10 states that provide in-state tuition rates at their public colleges for undocumented immigrants, other than private scholarships, there is no financial aid available for these students. Yet, these students come from families that are at the lower rungs of the economic ladder. So, even with the reasonable costs of the CUNY tuition, post-secondary education can be difficult at best and sometimes unattainable. The Supreme Court decided in Plyer v. Doe (1982) to provide access to children of the undocumented to a public education, yet, while these children can attend elementary and secondary schools, their dreams are shattered when they graduate. These barriers perpetuate an underclass. The DREAM Act will help those individuals of good moral character who came here before 16, graduated from an American High School or got a GED, and enroll in college. It is a logical extension of the

Supreme Court decision. It is a “safe conduct passage” to the middle class.

This proposed legislation is about equity as well. You are, again, showing the world that New York City is a place where all immigrants who work hard and who are willing to contribute to society can succeed. As a city of immigrants, where education and opportunity go hand in hand, we must support the passage of the DREAM Act.

And the passage of the DREAM Act also makes economic sense.

Coincidentally, in yesterday’s New York Times, Tamar Levin wrote about a College Board study that shows that the median earnings of full-time workers with Associates degree was \$42,000 in 2008; \$8,200 greater than that of a high school graduate.<sup>1</sup> In another article in the same edition, it is estimated that if the DREAM Act passes, 726,000

---

<sup>1</sup> Lewin, T (2010) Value of College Degree is Growing, Study Says, New York Times, Vol. CLX, No 55170

undocumented would become immediately eligible for legal status.<sup>2</sup>

This translates into a possible \$600 million influx into the economy.

In addition, according to the Census Bureau, over an adult's working life, high school graduates earn an average of \$1.2 million; associate's degree holders earn about \$1.6 million; and bachelor's degree holders earn about \$2.1 million.<sup>3</sup> And, even though some may question this assertion pegging the number at around \$450,000<sup>4</sup>, the numbers are truly staggering. If the estimates are correct, there are at least 65,000 high school graduates **per year** who would contribute anywhere between \$40M and \$70 M for the foreseeable future. When you start adding the numbers you can begin to understand cost benefit of this legislation.

---

<sup>2</sup> Preston, J. (2010) Student Spell Out Messages on Their Immigration Frustration, New York Times, Vol. CLX, No. 55170

<sup>3</sup> Day, J.C., & Newburger, E.C. (2002). The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings. (Current Population Reports, Special Studies, P23-210). Washington, DC: Commerce Dept., Economics and Statistics Administration, Census Bureau. [On-Line]. Available:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-210.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Pilon, M (2010) What's a Degree Really Worth? Wall Street Journal, Feb 2, 2010

I am very grateful that you are proposing this resolution. The DREAM ACT is about what America is all about, a gentle, caring society who welcomes new waves of immigrants and that through education and service creates a unique culture based on mutual respect and understanding. Let's hope that Congress votes in favor of this legislation.

Thank you for your attention

NYC Council Hearing on the DREAM Act  
September 22, 2010

**“How the DREAM Act Could Benefit Immigrant Students in New York City”**

Brian Browne, St. John’s University  
Assistant Vice President, Government Relations

Good morning. My name is Brian Browne and I am the Assistant Vice President for Government Relations at St. John’s University, a university founded by the Vincentian Community in 1870 and charged by the very first Bishop of Brooklyn to be a place of educational opportunity for immigrants and the children of immigrants. 140 years later that founding mission endures at St. John’s University.

I am here today to help to answer the question: How may the DREAM Act benefit immigrant students in New York City? The short answer to that question is the DREAM Act will not only benefit immigrant students in New York City but will also help provide economic activity for New York City and the U.S. society as a whole.

The DREAM Act is a bill to legalize immigrant high school graduates of good moral character who were brought to the United States at a young age without legal status to help them earn citizenship. The DREAM Act offers them a better future through education or military service to our country. Under the DREAM Act those who complete two years of college or military service will be eligible for their green cards (legal permanent resident status).

The DREAM Act is so very necessary because right now immigrant students graduating from high school in the United States have virtually no options. Legally, they can not get a job. They can not serve in the armed forces and in most states they can not further their education by attending college. The DREAM Act gives these individuals who have the misfortune of deriving their undocumented status from their parents’ greater opportunities by allowing them to stay in the country if they attend college or join the military.

**The DREAM Act is a means to strengthen our local, state and national economy.**

It is no secret in higher education that the more you learn, the more you earn. According to The College Board, the typical full-time year-round worker with a four-year college degree earns more than 60% more than high school graduates over their working lives. Those with master’s degrees earn almost twice as much, and those with professional degrees earn almost three times as much.

If legalized, the DREAM Act would give beneficiaries access to greater educational opportunities and better jobs, which in turn means a higher standard of living and more taxable income thus benefitting our economy.

**The DREAM Act is a way to attract college students to New York City.**

New York City is already a major destination for college students pursuing their higher education. The DREAM Act will help attract a greater number of diverse students to come to New York City to further their education. The Dream Act will also help to keep talented students living, working and studying right here in New York City. The DREAM Act will help to slow down the “brain-drain” already occurring in the United States by allowing some of our most talented students to step out from the shadows to advance their education (hopefully here in New York City) and to remain in this country.

**The DREAM Act is a way to collect a return on our educational investments.**

The DREAM Act is a way of getting a greater return on our previous investments in education. The students who would benefit under the DREAM Act have been raised and educated in the United States. State and local taxpayers have already invested in the education of these children at the elementary and secondary school level. Taxpayers deserve to get a better return on their educational investment by allowing these individuals the best opportunity to live and work to their greatest potential.

**The DREAM Act is a way to help reduce high school dropouts in NYC.**

Once the worldwide leader in education, the United States is now slipping behind other countries in a number of educational categories, none more troubling than high school graduation rates. As the nation’s largest and most diverse school district and given our size, demographics and history, New York City already faces many challenges when it comes to getting students to graduate from high school on time.

The passage of the DREAM Act will help reduce high school dropout rates. In the United States over 7,000 students become dropouts every school day. That astonishing figure translates to over 1.2 million students dropping out of school each year before graduating from high school. When students drop out of school they do so at great cost to themselves and to their communities. Imagine the lost economic benefits and long-term economic activity not to mention the lost wages over the course of a lifetime that are lost right here in New York City because undocumented students see no hope for advancing their education.

**The DREAM Act will help the New York City workforce better compete in a globalized world.**

The beneficiaries of the DREAM Act are the future innovators and entrepreneurs of our city, state and nation. With a better educated workforce made up of multilingual individuals who possess bicultural skills our global competitiveness will improve. There is a talent rich pool of hard working and enterprising individuals whose potential remains unknown as long as they remain undocumented. Many of these talented individuals are right here in New York City and are ready, willing and able to join our workforce. We must make that investment in our future.

**The DREAM Act is about equality of opportunity.**

The DREAM Act ensures that no child in America is denied their dream of having a better life if they are willing to work hard. As a society we have a responsibility to provide all young people, regardless of immigration status, hope for the future and a more level playing field when it comes to a chance at the pursuit of a higher education. Undocumented students study and work just as hard as their American-born classmates but they do not enjoy the same equality of opportunity when it comes to advancing their education or serving in the military.

**The DREAM Act will have immediate legislative impact.**

Experts estimate that those who might qualify for benefits under the DREAM Act-some 800,000 of the approximate 11 million people living here without authorization- presently have little hope, opportunity or legal mechanism to adjust to legal status and to get on the pathway to citizenship. It has been estimated that some 65,000 DREAM-eligible students graduate from American high schools each year. Congress should not let another graduating class slip into the cracks and disappear into our underground economy.

The DREAM Act is designed to focus on the special case of undocumented young people who came to this country because of the actions of their parents. The DREAM Act works to make the future brighter for students who have already demonstrated a willingness to work hard, aspire to do more and in whom New York City, New York State and the entire nation have already invested a great deal of resources.

Over the years the DREAM Act has attracted a wide and diverse array of support from educational institutions, religious organizations, the Defense Department, ethnic groups and editorial boards. In the absence of meaningful and comprehensive immigration reform, the passage of the DREAM Act is critical now more than ever.

At St. John's University we are blessed to have a rich tradition of religious, ethnic and racial diversity that is part of the legacy of the New York City that we are proud to call home. Our current enrollment has students that hail from 46 states and 111 different countries represented. Yet despite this tremendous diversity, we know that there are many individuals who were born into the wrong immigration status and remain outside of our gates and outside of our reach. Together, let us extend a hand and work to make their DREAMS come true.

###

Testimony respectfully submitted:

Brian Browne

St. John's University

Assistant Vice President, Government Relations

8000 Utopia Parkway

Jamaica, NY 11439

(718) 990-2762 (Phone)

[browneb@stjohns.edu](mailto:browneb@stjohns.edu)





137-139 West 25th Street  
12th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 627-2227  
www.thenyic.org

Hearing RE: Oversight: How the DREAM Act Could Benefit Immigrant Students in New York City. Res. No. 409 : Resolution calling on Congress to pass and President Obama to sign the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2009 (the "DREAM Act") or to incorporate provisions of the DREAM Act in a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill in order to provide immigration relief to undocumented immigrant students pursuing higher education.

9/22/10

Committee on Immigration and Committee on Higher Education

Testimony of  
Silvia Gonzales  
Advocacy Associate  
New York Immigration Coalition

Chairperson Dromm, Chairperson Rodriguez, and members of the Committee on Immigration and Committee on Higher Education: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the New York Immigration Coalition for the record regarding today's hearing on "How the DREAM Act Could Benefit Immigrant Students in New York City."

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. Serving one of the largest and most diverse newcomer populations in the United States, the NYIC has become a leading advocate for immigrant communities on the local, state, and national levels.

While my remarks will focus on how the DREAM Act could help immigrant students in New York City, I must respond to the Senate's failure to move this bill forward as we saw during yesterday's vote. The Senate chose to stop the DREAM Act from moving to the floor of the Senate for a vote, dashing the hopes of some 800,000 young people and ill-serving the interests of our nation. Those who voted NO chose largely to hide behind spurious objections to the 'process' and made it plain that immigrants would continue to be exploited as a wedge issue in an ugly and angry electoral season. We are disappointed at the continuing paralysis at the federal level, deeply saddened, and—plain and simple-- fed up with politicians who squandered a precious opportunity to make real movement toward substantive solutions.

But there is deep-seated support for the DREAM Act—from President Obama to Gen. Colin Powell, from the young people whose futures depend on the DREAM Act to thousands upon thousands of people from all sectors and walks of life.

We may have lost this particular vote at this moment in time, but in just the past week, those striving for immigration reform, including DREAM Act and other productive, common-sense measures, flooded Senate offices with 140,000 calls and faxes, representing an unstoppable grassroots movement. The DREAM Act deserves a fair hearing on the floor of the Senate and a vote on the substance this year. The passion that drove this intensive effort will continue to build and to galvanize us, and it will prevail.

Children who immigrate to the United States without proper documentation may not obtain legal permanent resident status. An estimated 65,000 of these U.S.-raised children graduate American high schools every year. These young people have made this country their home yet live in fear of deportation because of their immigration status. They face unique barriers to higher education, are unable to work legally in the U.S., and often live in constant fright of detection by immigration authorities.

The New York Immigration Coalition promotes realistic and sensible reforms of our immigration system and the DREAM Act is one of the positive pieces needed to do so. The DREAM Act would give thousands of students the opportunity to pursue higher education and transition into professional careers. By passing it, Congress would be making a tremendous investment in America's future.

New York City has many intelligent, dedicated and hard-working students who will greatly benefit from the DREAM Act. With legal status such immigrant students can restore their confidence, develop stability in their daily lives. With eventual permanent status, new doors to educational and professional opportunities will open for them and ultimately with citizenship, they will be fully able to engage in civic life. Such is the case for my next door neighbor who will concentrate more time to her studies and devote more time to being a great community leader and advocate if the DREAM Act passes. Without the DREAM Act she is juggling three part-time jobs to pay for her tuition.

Additionally, the DREAM Act would grant self-assurance and optimism for many high school students as the chance to go to college would finally be within their reach. With such hopefulness, they will be motivated to dedicate more time to studying and get involved in community activities. As a result, we anticipate increased attendance and possible improved school performance. Instead of fostering continued despair among immigrant youth, Congress should pass the DREAM Act to have a life-changing impact on qualified students.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our views regarding today's important hearing. I would be happy to answer any post-hearing questions you may have.

**American DREAM:  
How the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act  
Would Strengthen and Expand the American Middle Class**

**Cristina Jiménez, Immigration Policy Consultant  
Drum Major Institute for Public Policy**

**Executive Summary**

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) is a bipartisan bill providing a path to citizenship to unauthorized immigrant students who entered the U.S. as children if they graduate from high school and attend college or serve in the military. The Drum Major Institute for Public Policy finds that the bill would boost the American middle class by:

- **Allowing unauthorized immigrant students to contribute more to the economic prosperity necessary to sustain a strong middle class.** Providing students with legal immigration status would enable them to access higher education, get higher paying jobs, and as a result pay more in taxes. A 30 year-old Mexican immigrant woman with a college degree will pay \$5,300 more in taxes and cost \$3,900 less in government expenses each year compared to a high school dropout with similar characteristics, according to the RAND Corporation.
- **Keeping unauthorized immigrants out of the underground economy, where they face exploitation that threatens to undermine the wages and working conditions of aspiring middle-class Americans.** Research suggests that unauthorized immigrant workers routinely face violations of minimum wage, overtime and workplace safety laws – and that the exploitation of immigrants goes hand-in-hand with an atmosphere in which citizens are also taken advantage of on the job.
- **Facilitating the economic integration of immigrant families.** The students affected by the legislation grew up in the United States, attended our schools, speak English, adopted American values and traditions, and know this country as their home. They often have siblings and other close relatives who are U.S. citizens. Continuing to marginalize these deeply rooted young people cuts a permanent segment of our population off from the American Dream.

In “Principles for an Immigration Policy to Strengthen and Expand the American Middle Class: 2009 Edition,” the Drum Major Institute (DMI) argues that providing a path to legal status for all unauthorized immigrants would benefit the middle class and Americans striving to earn a middle-class standard of living. Yet political realities may prevent timely passage of the immigration overhaul the nation needs. At minimum Congress must enact one of the aspects of immigration reform that has the most bipartisan support: allowing unauthorized immigrant students who migrated to the U.S. as children to further their education, get better jobs, and, as a result, pay more in taxes.

## **Introduction**

As the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression struck the nation, conservative critics were quick to blame immigrants for declining standards of living. Americans, however, rejected the impulse to scapegoat immigrants and instead expressed support for a legalization program that would bring unauthorized immigrant workers out of the shadows. Despite the economic crisis, 61 percent of Americans support immigration reform that would legalize unauthorized immigrants currently living in the country.<sup>1</sup>

Acknowledging that providing a path to citizenship to unauthorized immigrants would increase tax revenue and protect American workers from unfair competition from lower-paid and exploited unauthorized workers, the Obama administration has pledged to seek immigration reform this year.<sup>2</sup> As shown by the health care debate, however, partisanship has blocked meaningful action on major legislation. Congress is deeply polarized and in a state of paralysis. There is also an additional challenge: mid-term elections. Democrats have argued that the distractions and pressures of the mid-term elections would make it difficult for Congress to address immigration reform as candidates strive to avoid controversial issues.<sup>3</sup>

At minimum Congress must enact one of the aspects of immigration reform that has the most bipartisan support: allowing unauthorized immigrant students who migrated to the U.S. as children to further their education, get better jobs, and, as a result, pay more in taxes. The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act), is a bipartisan bill that would provide a path to citizenship to certain unauthorized immigrant students if they graduate from high school and attend college or serve in the military. The students who would be impacted by the legislation grew up in this country—many cannot remember living anywhere else. They attended U.S. schools, speak English, adopted American values and traditions, and know this country as their home. They are, in all aspects, Americans.

The DREAM Act has garnered bipartisan support since it was first introduced in 2001. It passed the Senate Judiciary Committee twice and in 2006 it was added as an amendment to immigration reform by a voice vote without dissent. In 2007, it came close to passing the Senate, in a 52-44 vote. Trent Lott, Larry Craig, Kay Hutchinson, Sam Brownback, and several other Republicans voted for it. Reintroduced in March 2009, the bill continues to attract support from both parties, and is backed by the House and Senate leadership and the President.<sup>4</sup> With this broad support, Congress and the administration can act on this bill and allow these students to strengthen our workforce, the economy, and the middle class.

Current immigration policy fails the middle class because it is disconnected from our nation's economic reliance on immigrant workers, and because the exploitation of unauthorized immigrant workers threatens to undermine wages and working conditions for current and aspiring middle-class Americans. Although providing a path to citizenship to unauthorized immigrant students would not bring all unauthorized immigrants out of the shadows, the DREAM Act would still benefit the middle class by integrating some unauthorized immigrants into our economy and society. Passing the DREAM Act would also help reframe the immigration debate in less divisive terms. As its track record shows, the DREAM Act has commanded strong bipartisan support for nine years and preserved its purpose, even in highly

polarizing times. The reason is clear. There is nothing controversial about its aim: allowing hardworking students to go to college and contribute to our economy and society. The DREAM Act could lighten the political lift for further immigration reform and fine-tune the processing mechanisms for a broader legalization program, establishing best practices worth replicating.

### **The Status Quo: Unauthorized Immigrant Youth in the Shadows**

Approximately 65,000 unauthorized immigrant students graduate from high school every year.<sup>5</sup> Among those who graduate are valedictorians, honors students, star athletes, and talented artists. These students were born abroad and migrated to the United States with their parents at an early age. Yet because their parents lack legal immigration status, immigrant children are destined to remain in the shadows and without a path to citizenship.

Living in fear of deportation as they go through elementary and middle school, unauthorized immigrant students realize that a college education is not an option in high school. Financial barriers prevent them from pursuing higher education. They are barred from applying to scholarships, financial aid, and working legally to pay for college. Knowing their financial, social, and legal barriers to educational and economic opportunities, unauthorized immigrant students have fewer incentives to graduate from high school. It is estimated that one-fifth to one-sixth of unauthorized immigrant students drop out every year.<sup>6</sup> Beyond that only 5 to 10 percent of those who graduate high school are able to enroll in college.<sup>7</sup> Even a college degree does not guarantee the opportunity to enter the legal workforce. Often students' only option is to join the underground workforce and, like their parents, become vulnerable to exploitation. Unauthorized students remain in the United States – it is their home – but they contribute far less to the nation's economy, culture, and society than they could.

### **An Overview of the DREAM Act**

Introduced for the first time in 2001, the DREAM Act is a bipartisan legislation that would allow unauthorized immigrant students who entered the United States as children before the age of 16, who have been living in the U.S. continuously for five years and who have been law-abiding and generally of good moral character, to apply to the Department of Homeland Security for conditional legal status. If they attend college or serve honorably in the U.S. military for at least two years, these young people would become eligible for legal permanent residency and ultimately citizenship.

The key elements of the DREAM Act are:

- Students who entered the country before 16 years of age, lived in the country continuously for five years, and have good moral character would qualify for six-year conditional immigration status upon high school graduation or GED certification. The Senate bill includes an additional requirement that the student be under age 35.
- Students granted the six-year temporary immigration status would have to complete two years of college education or military service before becoming eligible to apply for legal permanent status. Students who fail to maintain good moral character during the six-year period will not be eligible.

- The DREAM Act would repeal section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), which discourages states from providing in-state tuition to students without immigration status. Despite section 505, ten states including Washington, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Utah, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, and Nebraska have enacted laws allowing anyone, including students without immigration status, who attended and graduated from high school in the state to pay in-state rates at public colleges and universities.

In 2007, the DREAM Act was just 8 votes away from the sixty necessary to proceed with debate on the bill. The Senate voted 52-44 in favor, with Trent Lott, Larry Craig, Kay Hutchinson, Sam Brownback, and several other Republicans voting for it. Four Senators were absent for the vote, including Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and John McCain (R-AZ).

The DREAM Act was reintroduced in the Senate and House of Representatives on March 26, 2009. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) introduced the bill S. 729 in the Senate. In the House of Representatives, a similar version of the bill (H.R. 1751) was introduced by Congressmen Howard Berman (D-CA), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA). Currently, the DREAM Act continues to gain bipartisan support and enjoys the support from the House and Senate leadership and President Obama.

## **How the DREAM Act Would Strengthen and Expand the American Middle Class**

**The DREAM Act would allow unauthorized immigrant students to contribute more to the economic prosperity necessary to sustain a strong middle class.** Providing students with legal immigration status would enable them to access higher education, get higher paying jobs, and as a result pay more in taxes.

- A new study by UCLA professor Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda indicates that providing a path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants would raise wages, create jobs, increase consumption, and generate additional tax revenue. Based on the 1986 legalization program, immigrants who received legal status were able to get better jobs and higher wages. This study estimates that a broad legalization program would yield at least \$1.5 trillion in added U.S. gross domestic product over 10 years.<sup>8</sup> The DREAM Act could be expected to provide a percentage of these gains.
- The opportunity to attend college and work legally would encourage unauthorized immigrant students to stay in school, improving their earnings – and economic contributions -- further. Data analyzed by the College Board reveals that individuals, their families, and society as a whole benefit from higher levels of education.
- Workers who lacked a high school diploma in 2006 earned an average of only \$149 per week and had an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent, while those with a bachelor's degree earned \$962 per week and had an unemployment rate of 1.4 percent.<sup>9</sup>

- Beyond salaries, educated individuals are less likely to fall into poverty, and depend on the public safety net. In addition, higher levels of education are correlated with higher levels of civic participation.<sup>10</sup>
- A RAND study found that a 30 year-old Mexican immigrant woman with a college degree will pay \$5,300 more in taxes and cost \$3,900 less in government expenses each year compared to a high school dropout with similar characteristics.<sup>11</sup>

**The DREAM Act would keep unauthorized immigrant students from a future in the underground economy, where they face exploitation that threatens to undermine the wages and working conditions of aspiring middle-class Americans.**

- Without legal status, unauthorized immigrants have few options other than joining the underground workforce. Because employers can threaten them with deportation, unauthorized immigrant students are vulnerable to exploitation.
- New research suggests that unauthorized immigrant workers routinely face violations of violations of minimum wage, overtime and workplace safety laws – and that the exploitation of immigrants goes hand-in-hand with an atmosphere in which citizens are also taken advantage of on the job.<sup>12</sup>
- Immigration enforcement has even been used to undermine workers’ efforts to organize a union at work, frustrating the efforts of both immigrants and native-born citizens to improve their own wages and working conditions.<sup>13</sup>
- U.S.-born workers are left to either accept the same diminished wages and degraded working conditions as immigrants living under threat of deportation or be shut out of jobs where employers hire predominantly unauthorized immigrants.
- Legalizing the immigration status of these students would even the playing field for native-born and foreign workers, protecting American workers from unfair competition from exploited unauthorized workers, especially during the economic downturn.

**The DREAM Act would expand the middle class and facilitate the economic integration of immigrant families**

- A college education has become a must for anyone who aspires to a middle-class standard of living. According to the U.S Department of Labor, 90 percent of new high-growth, high wage jobs will require some level of postsecondary education. The DREAM Act would allow these students to further their education and attain a middle-class standard of living.
- Beyond improving their own individual social and economic conditions, a path to citizenship for these students will facilitate a pathway to a middle-class standard of living for their entire family. The students affected by the legislation grew up in the United

States, attended our schools, speak English, adopted American values and traditions, and know this country as their home. They often have siblings and other close relatives who are U.S. citizens. Nevertheless, their households cannot fully integrate into our economy as long as young people cannot work legally, buy a house or open a business.

- When a child in the family attains immigration status, she/he is able to access economic opportunities that were not available before. Consider the typical story of someone like Veronica, whom I met in DREAM Act advocacy circles. She grew up here without legal status, but was able to attain immigration status in her early twenties and finish college. Although Veronica's parents remain in the country illegally, she is now helping them financially. She has a job with a decent salary and was able to help her parents buy their first house.<sup>14</sup>
- Continuing to marginalize these deeply rooted young people cuts a permanent segment of our population off from the American Dream, threatening to create a lost generation of uneducated people unable to attain a middle-class standard of living.

## Conclusion

The DREAM Act would strengthen our economy, workforce, and expand the middle class. Providing students without immigration status a path to citizenship would allow them to pursue higher education, join the legal workforce, and pay more taxes. Equipped with high skills, these students would add educated workers to our workforce. In addition, the DREAM Act would facilitate the economic integration of entire families by enabling educated children to serve as gateways to a middle-class standard of living.

Without access to higher education, the economic advancement and full integration of these young people is less likely. Failure to provide a path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrant students will result in a growing generation of uneducated workers, hurting our economy and threatening our future. The country should not have to accept a lost generation of uneducated youth in an underground economy with little chance for advancement, consigned to the margins of American society.

---

<sup>1</sup> Washington Post-ABC News Poll (April 2009) [http://washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/postpoll\\_042609.html](http://washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/postpoll_042609.html)

<sup>2</sup> "White House Plan on Immigration Includes Legal Status," The New York Times, November 13, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> "Over 100 Democrats Push Obama on Immigration Reform," New America Media, October 27, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> "Transcript: Democratic Debate in Austin, Texas," The New York Times, February 21, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Jeffrey S. Passel, "Further Demographic Information Relating to the DREAM Act," The Urban Institute, (2003)

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda, "Raising the Floor for American Workers: The Economic Benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform," Center for American Progress, Immigration Policy Center, (2010)

<sup>9</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Spotlight on Statistics: Back to School" (2007), [http://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2007/back\\_to\\_school/data.htm#table1](http://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2007/back_to_school/data.htm#table1)



---

<sup>10</sup> Sandy Baum & Jennifer Ma, "Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals & Society," The College Board, (2007)

<sup>11</sup> Georges Vernez, Richard A. Krop, and C. Peter Rydell, "Closing the Education Gap: Benefits and Costs" RAND Corporation (1999)

<sup>12</sup> Annette Bernhardt et. al. "Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers: Violations of Employment and Labor Laws in America's Cities," University of Illinois-Chicago, University of California-Los Angeles, National Employment Law Project (2009).

<sup>13</sup> Rebecca Smith, et. al. "ICED OUT: How Immigration Enforcement Has Interfered with Workers' Rights," American Rights at Work, AFL-CIO, National Employment Law Project (2009).=

<sup>14</sup> Veronica Gomez. Personal interview, August 2009.

# “Speech

Hello every one my name is Francisco Curiel and I still fighting to pass the DREAM Act. I’m 18 years old and I’m a senior at Pan American International High School at Queens. I’m very proud of all of you who came from different places to collaborate together to become the DREAM Act a reality.

I came to this country on August of 2007 when I was 15 and I realized that if you study you can progress in the future. This is my last year in high school and I’m going to start my college applications, but the reality is that I can’t go to college yet. I can’t get financial aid or a scholarship because I don’t have a social security number. I won’t have the opportunity to be the first generation to go to college and help my family and especially my single mother.

This country, our land has a lot of opportunities and needs us back. Getting a basic step like education is a way that we can change the structure of this society. Youths, we are the next generation and the

future of the well being of our communities is in our hands. I invite you to think the 2.1 millions of undocumented students who can't continue their college education because they can't get financial aid or a scholarship just because they don't have a permit or legal status to stay in this country.

I've been working for the DREAM Act for a long time and I feel sad and very disappointed of the denial of the senators and the congress I juts want to say that none of us would give up because this is not over, it is just the beginning of our fight. I encourage you to come to be part of our DREAM Movement.

**Testimony by Allan Wernick  
Director, CUNY Citizenship Now!**

**before**

**The New York City Council  
Immigration Committee**

**and**

**Higher Education Committee**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

Good morning Chairman Dromm, Chairman Rodriguez and members of the New York City Council Higher Education and Immigration Committees. My name is Allan Wernick and I am the Director of CUNY Citizenship Now! the largest citizenship and immigration law service provider in New York City, and a professor at Baruch College.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about the New York City Council's efforts to assist undocumented immigrant students by endorsing passage of the DREAM Act. Citizenship Now!, as a front-line immigrant service organization, is keenly aware of the need to provide a path to legal status for undocumented youth and to allow public colleges and university's to make generous rules regarding the tuition required from undocumented students.

Before I continue discussing the impact the Dream Act will have on New York's youth, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee on Immigration for its support for immigrants' rights and for CUNY Citizenship Now! A special thanks to the Brooklyn,

Manhattan and Bronx delegations, particularly council members Williams, Rodriguez and Seabrook, for their support of Immigrant Opportunity Initiative funding for Citizenship Now! Your support means free legal assistance for thousands of immigrant New Yorkers.

CUNY and its Chancellor, Matthew Goldstein are long-time supporters of the Dream Act. On three separate occasions, beginning in 2002, and most recently just this week, Chancellor Goldstein has urged Congress to by pass legislation that would help undocumented students advance toward U.S. citizenship. Presidents Marti and Rabb have added the voices of two of CUNY's leading presidents to that of our Chancellor. Now, as director of Citizenship Now!, I would like to add my perspective.

At our nine centers located throughout New York City where we assisted close to eight thousand individuals in the last year alone, at our annual call-in co-sponsored by the New York Daily News where in the past eight years we have answered questions for almost 85,000 callers and at our weekend citizenship assistance events, many of which were co-sponsored by members of your committees, we have heard constant calls passage of the Dream Act. Undocumented young people, driven by their desire to advance their education, their careers and their contribution to this country, yearn for a path to legal status. Further, as a professor known in CUNY for my concern for immigrant students, not a week goes by that I don't hear from a colleague about an outstanding student graduating, with little hope of finding meaningful employment. Among these students are some of the best and brightest young scholars in the nation. Yet, due to a lack of legal status, they are achieve the career goals of which they dream.

The work of Citizenship Now! has taken us to communities all over New York City, but as a longtime resident of Washington Heights, I am particularly aware of the concerns of students of a high school typical of many throughout New York City, one with which Chairman Rodriguez has worked closely with for many years: Gregorio Luperon High School. When we look at the ambitions of the predominantly foreign-born students in attendance there, we see young people who are trying to realize their ambitions in the same manner as immigrants did in past generations. A portion of them are undocumented. We owe these students the same opportunity to succeed because they have the same drive and talents and abilities. They want very much to attend college and to graduate. They are the future of our city and their stories are replicated throughout every community and every neighborhood of our city.

One final point. We like to call CUNY the immigrant-friendly university, yet restrictive federal laws limit access to a CUNY education to many undocumented students. These laws restrict our ability to provide higher education to this group by taking away our control over which students qualify for resident tuition. While state legislation has done much to ameliorate this problem, the law mandates that many undocumented students pay the higher out-of-state tuition. Further, as undocumented students are ineligible for state and federal financial aid, many cannot afford to study at all and others are forced to study part-time.

Limitations placed on our financial aid programs by state and federal law harm undocumented students the most. The bars undocumented from receiving TAP, Pell and other government

financed programs. We would urge the council in its resolution to call for DREAM Act beneficiaries to immediately qualify for federal financial assistance.

CUNY Citizenship Now wholeheartedly support the Council's efforts in support of the Dream Act and we will continue working with you to assure the passage of the legislation.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have at this time.



Office of the Interim  
Associate Provost for  
Student Success

One Pace Plaza, Y20B  
New York, NY 10038-1598

Phone: (212) 346-1946

Fax: (212) 346-1596

Pace University Testimony, New York City Council's Committees on Immigration and Higher  
Education, September 22, 2010

I address you today on behalf of Pace University and its students who would benefit from your support of the Dream Act. Pace University is an urban higher education institution with locations in Westchester and downtown New York. We enroll approximately 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students who come to Pace with a strong desire to take their place in the world, however best achieved, following their educational experience at Pace. One of the hallmarks of our education is an award-winning cooperative education program where students receive unusual opportunities to complement their in-classroom experience with on-the-job training in the form of internships, residencies, and part-time jobs. Graduates of Pace University are some of the highest-paid graduates in the country and graduates enter careers in industries deemed high-needs by the U.S. government, or they pursue further graduate education.

Undocumented applicants to Pace are treated the same as any other applicant insofar as admission is concerned. Most end up being categorized as international students because they are neither US citizens nor US permanent residents. They are offered scholarships based on the same criteria as any other applicant but do not usually file for federal or state financial aid because they are not eligible. If it becomes clear to us that an applicant is undocumented, we will change their status from international to standard. These students are welcome to attend Pace. Of course, some students struggle to pay tuition because they have no access to government grants or loans.

It is one of the saddest results of our current immigration policies to have so many children of undocumented aliens raised and educated in this country who, even when they complete a degree, will hit a brick wall after they graduate because they are unable to work lawfully. Many of the students (including their parents) don't fully understand that their children will never be able to use the education they moved to this country to provide them.

One of Pace University's High School seniors was offered, last year, the Pace High School scholarship which covers full tuition between scholarship and federal/state aid. She couldn't accept the scholarship and aid because she wouldn't file the FAFSA and her parents couldn't access any loans. Our admissions staff met with her several times and could see that the college search process brought about a clear understanding of her situation. She told us that her parents didn't want to talk about it. I have seen this over and over again.

The Dream Act's attempt to rectify this sad situation would allow for the reclassification of students who entered the U.S. as children through no fault of their own, have been long-term residents, and with certain reasonable conditions met, would be eligible to serve in the military and attend a higher education institution.

Your support of the Dream Act will help so many students who graduate high school with little hope for the future. The Dream Act will assist these students qualify for jobs and resident status so that they can continue to provide their talents to the United States, the country they call home.



Testimony of the Professional Staff Congress to  
The Higher Education and Immigration Committees of  
New York City Council

September 22, 2010

By Arthurine DeSola, PSC Secretary

Good morning Chairmen Ydanis Rodriguez and Daniel Dromm and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Immigration Committees. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Professional Staff Congress in support of the City Council Resolution No. 409 today.

Our union strongly supports the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act – or DREAM Act. In light of the disappointing procedural vote in the Senate yesterday to block the bill, we urge that you adopt this resolution as soon as possible. Our New York Senators, Representatives and the Congress need to know that New York City supports this reform. The DREAM Act would provide a path for undocumented youth, who were brought to the United States as minors, to obtain legal immigration status. Passing the DREAM Act would be an important first step toward comprehensive immigration reform which our country desperately needs. I am especially happy to be here today with CUNY students and immigrant rights organizations to urge its swift adoption.

My union represents 24,000 CUNY faculty and professional staff who know first-hand the particular hurdles facing undocumented immigrant students struggling to complete their education, and find legal employment. Several years ago New York State passed a law granting undocumented students, who graduate from high school here, the right to attend CUNY and pay in-state tuition rates. This forward-thinking legislation, which our union strongly advocated, has, since 2001, opened the door to a college education for thousands of talented young people who would otherwise have been denied.

Today over 44 percent of all CUNY students were born outside the US mainland. While this figure includes students on many temporary visas as well as permanent legal residents, some are undocumented immigrants who currently have no means to obtain permanent legal status – ever. These students live under a constant threat of deportation. They cannot work legally, obtain a drivers license or open a bank account. Despite their talent, perseverance and desire to build a better life for themselves, their families and communities, they are stuck in limbo with no path forward. The DREAM Act would rectify this injustice by granting those, who were brought to the US before age 15 and graduate high school, provisional legal status for six years. If they then completed two years of college or served two years in the US military, they would be able to apply for regular permanent status.

As a counselor at Queensborough Community College for many years and now an elected officer of the PSC, I witnessed immigrant students struggle to complete college on many different levels. I know them to be hungry for a college education. Like most CUNY students, they come from families of very modest means. But unlike CUNY students who are citizens or legal residents, these students cannot receive federal or state financial aid or qualify for subsidized education loans. For this reason, many of them work long hours "under the table" and frequently take time off from school to earn enough money to pay for the next semester's tuition and fees.<sup>1</sup> Though the DREAM Act itself would not fix this problem entirely, it would allow New York State to provide TAP grants to these students should it chose to do so. Passing the DREAM Act would also remove the penalty on the state required by Section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996.

It is estimated that 65,000 undocumented students graduate high schools in the United States every year, but only 5% ever attend college. This is a terrible waste. We commend the Council Members for introducing Resolution 409 and urge its swift passage by the entire Council to send a message to the Congress as soon as possible.

If given the opportunity, we are confident that these young immigrants will use their college education to contribute New York's future economy as productive workers and professionals. For these reasons, we of the Professional Staff Congress recommit ourselves to push the US Congress to pass the DREAM Act into law.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about this important resolution.

---

<sup>1</sup> These students may be eligible for modest support through the College Discovery or Vallone Scholarship programs, but these are extremely small programs and do not meet the needs for the majority of students.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LESLIE A. MASSIHA AVP. CON. RELATIONS

Address: 3 STATE AFFAIRS FURDHAM UNIVERSITY

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 441 E. FURDHAM ROAD BRONX, NY 10458

CUNY Panel  
1 of 4

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eduardo Marti, Vice Chancellor for

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Community Colleges

I represent: CUNY

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brian Browne

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: St. John's University

Address: 8000 Utopia Parkway Jamaica NY  
11439

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. DREAM ACT RESO

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Arthurine DeSola, Professional Staff Congress

Address: 61 Broadway, Suite 1500, NYC 10006

I represent: Secretary, Professional Staff Congress

Address: 61 Broadway, Suite 1500, NYC 10006

CUNY panel  
2 of 4

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jennifer Raab, Pres.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: CUNY - Pres. Hunter College

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

CUNY panel  
4 of 4

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: William Barrientos

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: CUNY - student

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

CUNY panel  
3 of 4

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alan Wernick, Director - Citizenship Now

Address: CUNY

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 09/22/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANTHONY STEVENS-ACEVEDO

Address: 398 RIVER ROAD, BOGOTA, NJ 07603

I represent: SELF / INDIVIDUAL

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. 409

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Amy Traub

Address: 40 Exchange Place Ste. 2001 NY NY

I represent: Drum Major Institute for Public Policy

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Scott Stringer (PLEASE PRINT), Manhattan Borough  
Address: 1 Centre St President

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: EDUARDO MARTI (PLEASE PRINT)  
Address: 389 E. 89th ST Apt 105F

I represent: CUUNY

Address: 585 E. 80th St N.Y. N.Y.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/2010

Name: Christine Shakespeare (PLEASE PRINT)  
Address: 1 Pace Plaza room 420B 10038

I represent: Pace University

Address: Same as above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 22 sept, 2020

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Raissa A.G.A. Dally

Address: 2163 Mapes Avenue Apt. C

I represent: myself

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 409

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Silvia Gonzales

Address: 34-33 90th Apt 51E Jackson Hgts NY 11372

I represent: The New York Immigration Coalition

Address: 137-139 W. 25th St. 12th Fl. NY, NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Atagracia Guzman Vargas

Address: 830 West 197 St # 1F

I represent: Ydany Rodriguez dist 10

Address: Manhattan Audubon ave

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sonia M. Tello

Address: 7909 Roosevelt Ave

I represent: The Latin American Workers Project

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Luz Maria Arias

Address: 79-09 Roosevelt Ave

I represent: The Latin America Workers Project

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/22/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zaila Ojeda

Address: 79-09 Roosevelt Ave

I represent: The Latin America Workers Project

Address: 79-09 Roosevelt Ave

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

[Empty box]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 09/

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rubiela Arias

Address: 87-35 Elmhurst AVE Elmhurst NY, 11373

I represent: Hazardous Materials Workers

Address: Interpretor: Veronica Piedra, Ecuadorian  
International Center

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

[Empty box]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: SEP 22, 2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Francisco Obiel

Address: 9-03 35 Ave.

I represent: MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK

Address: 92-10 Roosevelt Ave.

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀