



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

May 27, 2009

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
309 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Lugar:

We are writing in support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (The "DREAM Act") which would allow the children of immigrants who have grown up here a conditional path to citizenship in exchange for a mandatory two years in higher education or military service. Passage of The DREAM Act would go a long way towards correcting an inequitable situation that drains our economy of talent and resources.

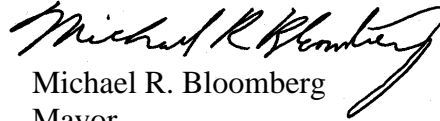
Under current law, children who come to the United States with parents who enter illegally are condemned to a life in the shadows. Many excel in school and dream of going to college, but the opportunity is denied them. With an education, and as legal members of society, they can legally join the American labor force, start new companies, develop innovative technologies, or pioneer medical advances. In other words, these youngsters can become productive contributors to our economy.

In New York City, tens of thousands of public school students do not have legal status. We are investing in them all the same, which is required by federal law and – just as importantly – honors the values on which the United States was built. New York has increased education spending by billions of dollars over the past seven years, and we have raised graduation rates and test scores significantly. Our City – and our country – can only reap a return on that investment if Congress allows all students to pursue higher education and legitimate careers. In today's global economy, we simply cannot afford to chase home-grown talent out of our country.

The DREAM Act is not a substitute for comprehensive immigration reform, which is much needed to restore the strength and competitive status of the American economy. Ideally, the DREAM Act should be one component of a comprehensive reform bill. But if comprehensive action is delayed, Congress should not hesitate to pass legislation that provides immediate relief to children who should not be denied the opportunity to secure an education and

contribute to the American economy. The Dream Act offers a fair bargain benefiting both children and the country. As you work to pass it, you will have our full support.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bloomberg
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