

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2009

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Chairwoman
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Gonzalez
Vice Chairman
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
303 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: S. 729/H.R. 1751, the DREAM Act

Dear Chairwoman Velazquez and Vice Chairman Gonzalez:

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write in support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors or “DREAM” Act. The DREAM Act has been introduced in both the Senate and House as S. 729 and H.R. 1751, respectively, and we urge you to work to make this proposed legislation into law.

Increased access to higher education is a top priority for our associations and the institutions we represent. As the name of the legislation recognizes, higher education is essential to achieving the “American dream” that immigrants to this country have sought since the founding of the nation. The DREAM Act will remove barriers to higher education for thousands of young students who have grown up in this country, attended our schools, and have the desire and capacity to make vital contributions to the nation’s economic strength and security. For many of these students, the U.S. is the only country they have known, and we need them to contribute to our economy to the full extent of their abilities.

Access to in-state tuition is essential for these students, as is the path to legal status that the DREAM Act endorses. As the DREAM Act moves through the legislative process, we respectfully request that you also work to extend federal grant aid to DREAM Act-eligible students to remove another significant barrier to their higher education success.

We recognize that the debate over immigration is complex and evokes strong emotion. The DREAM Act, however, provides educational and career opportunities for young people, many of whom are in this country through decisions beyond their control, but have shown themselves exceptional members of our communities and exhibit exemplary academic achievement. It is truly in our best interest to ensure they have the opportunity to achieve their dreams and become part of the well-educated and competitive work force that our country needs today.

We strongly support the DREAM Act and look forward to working with you to ensure swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American College Personnel Association
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
College Board
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
Council for Opportunity in Education
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Collegiate Athletic Association
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
University Continuing Education Association
Women's College Coalition