



American Council on Education
Office of the President

July 17, 2007

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned higher education organizations, I am writing to urge you to vote for the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which will be offered as an amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill by Senators Durbin, Hagel and Lugar. The amendment is expected to consist of the legislation introduced earlier this year, S. 774.

Increased access to higher education is a top priority for the students and institutions served by our organizations. As the name of this legislation recognizes, higher education is becoming necessary to achieving the "American dream" that immigrants to this country have sought for centuries. The DREAM Act would provide a path to legal status, via higher education or military service, to approximately 65,000 undocumented, long-term U.S. residents each year. The amendment would also return full authority to the states to determine in-state tuition policy, including whether to extend in-state tuition to undocumented students.

The DREAM Act is essential to providing opportunities for young people who, through actions beyond their control, are already members of our communities. It is in all of our best interests to ensure they have the same opportunities as everyone else to achieve their dreams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ward', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Ward
President

DW/mmn

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees

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Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
United States Student Association