



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

September 21, 2010

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

It is my understanding that S. 729, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2009 ("the DREAM Act"), will soon be offered as an amendment to legislation pending before the United States Senate. I am writing in support of Senate passage of the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act would provide the means by which students who lived most of their lives in our country, and through hard work have excelled and wish to obtain a college education, could do so. This important legislation would allow these individuals, who have been raised and educated in American schools, to obtain conditional lawful permanent resident status, and eventually citizenship if they satisfy certain requirements after a period of time. It would also restore power to the States to determine whether to extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented students.

By taking these steps, the DREAM Act will stop the punishment of innocent young people for the actions of their parents, and give them the chance to earn their legal status by pursuing a higher education, or by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Many of these individuals came to the United States as young children and know no other country. Like their peers, they have done what was asked of them in their schools, and now hope to achieve even more through the pursuit of a college education.

I strongly urge the Senate to pass this bill because I believe it will play an important part in our efforts to meet the Administration's goals of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Even more, it will allow these young people to live up to their fullest potential and contribute to the economic growth of our country. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne Duncan", is positioned above the printed name.

Arne Duncan



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September 21, 2010

Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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