December 7, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker and Minority Leader Boehner:

As student leaders in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, we urge you to vote in favor of this important bill when it comes to the floor of the United States House of Representatives. As roughly two thirds of the AAPI population are foreign born and the majority of AAPI college students are immigrants or children of immigrants, the DREAM Act is of great importance to AAPI college students. The DREAM Act is the first step of comprehensive immigration reform, which is a priority for the entire AAPI community.

The DREAM Act would allow undocumented youth a path to legalization through higher education or the armed forces. The DREAM Act would allow undocumented individuals, who were brought over to the United States as children through no fault of their own, to attain legal status. The DREAM Act would allow many high achieving individuals, who want to serve in the armed forces or pursue higher education, to reach their dreams.

These students are leaders in their schools and in their communities. Professor William Perez of Claremont Graduate University followed a group of 200 undocumented students from high school through college and found that 78% of these students were in leadership positions, 28% were involved in student government, and 12% were student body presidents. David Cho, drum major of the UCLA marching band, is a Korean American honor student who wishes to join the US Air Force after he graduates. Steve Li, a nursing student at the City College of San Francisco, aspires to open a health clinic to help low income families. New Yorker Joanna Kim is a college honor student who dreams of giving back to the U.S. by becoming a doctor. Unfortunately, Joanna now faces deportation and the DREAM Act is her best hope for gaining legal status. These young people embody our American values of hard work and giving back to society. Passing the Dream Act will only drive these students to continue to work harder for their education and a chance at citizenship.

We ask for you to take action in support of the DREAM Act now. It is important for Congress to fix the broken immigration system. Passing the DREAM Act is the first step towards comprehensive immigration reform. The DREAM Act would allow these high-achieving individuals to have a chance to contribute fully to the US and to pursue the American Dream. The DREAM Act needs to be passed now and we ask for your vote in support of the DREAM Act and against any amendments that would undermine its intentions.

Sincerely,
Youth Advisory Council, project of Asian American Justice Center, member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
5 College Pan Asian Network
Alliance of Korean American Students in Action, University of California, Los Angeles
Asian American Alliance, Tufts University
Asian American Journal, Stony Brook University
Asian American Student Association, University of Tulsa
Asian American Student Union, University of Florida
Asian American Student Union, University of Kansas
Asian American Student Union, University of Maryland at College Park
Asian American Students Association, Oklahoma State University
Asian Outlook Magazine, Stony Brook University
Asian Pacific American Coalition, University of California, Berkeley
Asian Pacific American Empowerment Conference, University of North Texas
Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute, De Anza College
Asian Pacific American Student Association, Saint Mary’s College of California
Asian Pacific Americans for Action, Cornell University
Asian Pacific Student Coalition, University of Pennsylvania
Asian Student’s Association, Smith College
ASPIRE (Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education), program of the Asian Law Caucus, member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
Bay Area Dream Act Coalition
Black Students Alliance, Smith College
Boston Asian American Students' Intercollegiate Conference
Chinatown Youth Initiatives, Syracuse University
Chinese Students’ Association, University of Pennsylvania
Dream Act Portal
Dream IU, Indiana University
East Coast Asian American Student Union
Greater China Initiative, Columbia University
Hispanic American Leadership Organization, University of Missouri
History Department, University of California, Los Angeles
Hmong Student Union, University of California, Davis
Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. Chi Chapter, University of Maryland, College Park
Korean Resource Center, University of California, Los Angeles
Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity Incorporated, University of Central Florida
Midwest Asian American Students Union
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Santa Monica College
Pi Delta Psi, Rutgers University
REACH! Asian/Pacific Islander Recruitment and Retention Center, University of California, Berkeley
Reappropriate.com
Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc., University of Maryland, College Park
Southeast Asian Organization, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
Southeast Asian Student Coalition, University of California, Berkeley
Student Government Association, University of Maryland at College Park
United States Student Association
Vietnamese Student Association, Cleveland State University
Vietnamese Student Association, Rice University
Deema Alfadl, University of Maryland
Naila Ansari, University of Georgia
Sarah Anwar, University of Oklahoma
Ariana Aparicio, Sonoma State University
Greg Baesa, University of Maryland
Richard Bailey, Oklahoma State University
Laurie Bailon, University of California, Berkeley
Justin Balagtas, University of California, Irvine
Thanh Bounkhong, University of Tulsa
Cherie Buenaflor, University of California, Davis
Starr C, University of Maryland
David Camelong, New York
Randy Cao, Oklahoma State University
Huyen Cao, Oklahoma State University
Erika Victoria Catipon, University of Maryland, College Park
Jose Centino, University of Maryland, College Park
Andrew Chang, University of Florida
Gina Charsumbat, Smith College
Muttika Chaturabul, University of California, Berkeley
Tahreen Chaudhry, University of Pennsylvania
Thomas Chen, Columbia University
Angel Chen, Columbia University
Jamie Chen, Columbia University
Dara Chen, University of Florida
Anyi Chen, University of Maryland
Wendy Chen, University of Maryland, College Park
Peiling Chen, University of Maryland, College Park
David Chen, University of Pennsylvania
Yiping Chenglin, University of Maryland, College Park
David Cho, University of California, Los Angeles
So Choi, De Anza College
Elaine Chow, University of California, Berkeley
Henry Chow, University of Pennsylvania
Brandon Chu, Rutgers University
Mindy Chu, Smith College
Joemar Clemente, University of California, Davis
Fernando Colon, University of Missouri
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Blanca Hernandez, Bay Area Dream Act Coalition
Calvin Ho, Swarthmore College
Vi Ho, University of Florida
Sally Huang, University of Maryland, College Park
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Jennifer Jiang, Colorado State University
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William Kwan, Syracuse University
Tae Kwon, University of Maryland
Jimmy Lam, Saint Louis University
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Nigel Lam, University of Pennsylvania
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Watson Lum, University of Maryland, College Park
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Sara Mata, Oklahoma State University
Fasetaulema Mataliti, San Francisco Community College
Michell McGrain, University of Maryland, College Park

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