



December 7, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

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 Charusombat, Smith College
Muttika Chaturabul, University of California, Berkeley
Tahreem 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
David Corderman, Saint Mary's College of Maryland
Alex Coulombe, Syracuse University
Minh Dang, Cleveland State University
Lisa Daniels, Smith College
Peter DeCrescenzo, University of Maryland, College Park
Jean-Paul deGuzman, University of California, Los Angeles
Cindy Dinh, Rice University
Jude Dizon, The University of Vermont
Bryan Do, California State University, Stanislaus
Devy Emperador, University of California, Berkeley
Vincent Fang, Syracuse University
Jenn Fang, The University of Arizona
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Lori Gjoni, University of Maryland

Ronald Gonzaga, University of Maryland, College Park
Yankun Guo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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George Hadjiconstantinou, Binghamton University
Brian Haight, New Jersey Institute of Technology
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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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Elaine Hui, University of Maryland, College Park
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Jennifer Juang, Colorado State University
Hyo Jung Esther Jung, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs
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Scarlette Kim, Santa Monica College
Angela Kim, University of California, Los Angeles
Max Kim, University of Maryland, College Park
Komes Kovatana, Oklahoma State University
William Kwan, Syracuse University
Tae Kwon, University of Maryland
Jimmy Lam, Saint Louis University
Angela Lam, Tufts Alum
Nigel Lam, University of Pennsylvania
Sarah Lamoreaux, Oklahoma State University
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Christine lien, University of Maryland, College Park
Cherry Lim, Tufts
Daniel Lim, University of Maryland, College Park
Nicholas Loh, Oberlin College
Soua Lor, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
Cindy Lu, University of California, Berkeley
Nina Lu, University of Texas
Watson Lum, University of Maryland, College Park
Kha Ly, University of Missouri
Sara Mata, Oklahoma State University
Fasetaulemaga Mataituli, San Francisco Community College
Michell McGrain, University of Maryland, College Park

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