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 Buenaflo, University of California, Davis
Starr C, University of Maryland
David Camelon, 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
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
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 Emperor, University of California, Berkeley
Vincent Fang, Syracuse University
Jenn Fang, The University of Arizona
Sarah Firdaus, Oklahoma State University
Adrian Francisco, University of Maryland, College Park
J G, University of Maryland, College Park
Melanie Gao, East Coast Asian American Student Union
Lori Gjoni, University of Maryland
Ronald Gonzaga, University of Maryland, College Park
Yankun Guo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
David Ha, University of California, San Diego
George Hadjiconstantinou, Binghamton University
Brian Haight, New Jersey Institute of Technology
James Han, University of Maryland, College Park
Blanca Hernandez, Bay Area Dream Act Coalition
Calvin Ho, Swarthmore College
Vi Ho, University of Florida
Sally Huang, University of Maryland, College Park
Timothy Huey, Saint Mary’s College of California
Elaine Hui, University of Maryland, College Park
Michael Ishimoto, University of Pennsylvania
Mayra Jimenez, Smith College
Liza Joung, Smith College
Jennifer Juang, Colorado State University
Hyo Jung Esther Jung, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs
Chanvavy Kea, University of Missouri, Columbia
Munnun Khan, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
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
Law Lan, Cornell University
Frances Lawson, Columbia University
Eunice Lee, Amherst College
Siobhan Lee, Cornell University
Michele Lee, Smith College
Justin Lee, University of California, Los Angeles
Christina Lee, University of California, Los Angeles
Ezer Lee, University of Maryland
Camden Lee, University of Maryland, College Park
Judy Lei Lei, Smith College
Helen Lei, University of California, Los Angeles
Andrew Li, University of Maryland, College Park
Eric Liang, University of Maryland, College Park
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 Wisconsin, Whitewater
Watson Lum, University of Maryland, College Park
Kha Ly, University of Missouri
Sara Mata, Oklahoma State University
Fasetaulamaga Matauti, San Francisco Community College
Michell McGrain, University of Maryland, College Park
Matthew McGrath, University of Maryland, College Park  
Philip Mok, University of Maryland, College Park  
Derek Mong, Duke University  
Chetana Musapeta, Oklahoma State University  
Anh Nguyen, George Mason University  
Lam Nguyen, Oklahoma State University  
Anthony Nguyen, University of Kansas  
Tam-Sanh Nguyen, University of Maryland, College Park  
Elizabeth Nguyen, University of North Texas  
Fred NguyenLoc, Florida State University  
Ian Nicholson, Syracuse University  
Michael Oum, Wichita State University  
Marjorie Pagaduan, California State University, Stanislaus  
Genesis Pena-Cruz, Smith College  
David Perez, The California Maritime Academy  
Sosefina Perosi, San Francisco Community College  
Amy Pham, Oklahoma State University  
Theresa Pham, Oklahoma State University  
Nancy Pham, University of Maryland, College Park  
Christyna Pham, University of Missouri  
Yin Piao, University of California, Los Angeles  
Linda Poon, University of Maryland, College Park  
Roland Quan, University of Maryland, College Park  
Alex Rabanal, University of Illinois  
Sara Ramsay, Dickinson College  
Summer Raza, University of Maryland, College Park  
Nina Reyes, Brooklyn, NY 11217  
Katherine Rivera, Georgia Perimeter College  
Elisa Sanchez, Essex County College  
Sergio Sanchez, University of Central Florida  
Kimberly Sarabia, Indiana University  
mollie schwam, Smith College  
Jee Shim Deogracias, University of Maryland  
Julia Shu, University of California, Berkeley  
Seataoaifelenaoit Shyoon, Smith College  
Harjinder Singh, Queens College - City University of New York  
Nickpreet Singh, University of Pennsylvania  
Thomas Siu, University of California, Berkeley  
Dian Sohn, University of California, Los Angeles  
Freddie Sotelo, Essex County College  
Jungwoo Suh, University of California, Los Angeles  
Emily Sze, University of Maryland, College Park  
Richard Szeto, Oklahoma State University  
Alice Tan, Smith College  
Catalina Tang, Boston College  
Tessie Tanny, Colorado State University  
Senia Tauasosi, San Francisco Community College  
Lisa Thai, University of St. Thomas  
Mamie Thant, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Leona Thao, Oklahoma State University  
Thuy Tran, Georgetown University  
Trinh Tran, Hofstra University Law School  
Amy Tran, University of California, Berkeley  
Quynh Tran, University of Connecticut  
Maruel Unrein, University of Kansas  
Mark Valle, University of Maryland, College Park  
Tara Vang, Loma Linda University School of Public Health  
Marianne Varkiani, University of Maryland, College Park  
Kristine Versola, Rutgers State University of New Jersey  
Megan Vu, University of Florida  
Mike Wang, Princeton University  
Calvin Wang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Elaine Wang, University of Maryland, College Park  
Melissa Wang, University of Pennsylvania  
Benjamin Watkins, University of Pennsylvania  
Briana Wilborn, University of California, Berkeley  
Diane Wong, SUNY Binghamton University  
Denise Wong, University of California, Berkeley  
Kimberly Wong, University of California, San Diego  
Aaron Wong, University of Maryland, College Park  
Jacqueline Wu, University of California, Irvine  
Chao Wu, University of Maryland  
Doreen Wu, University of Maryland, College Park  
Alice Xie, University of Pennsylvania  
Ger Xiong, University of California, Davis  
Lucia Xiong, University of Pennsylvania  
Louisa Xue, University of Pennsylvania  
Crystal Yah, University of California, Davis  
Brandon Yanari, University of California, Berkeley  
Jiayi Yang, University of Pennsylvania  
Carmen Ye, University of California, Berkeley  
Lawrence Yen, University of Pennsylvania  
Cristy Yeung, Ithaca College  
Ling Yeung, Stony Brook University  
Marwin Yeung, University of California, Berkeley  
Daniel Yi, Northern Illinois University  
Emily Young, University of Maryland, College Park  
Jeff Young, University of Maryland, College Park  
Karen Yu, University of California, Berkeley  
Fay Yu, University of Maryland, College Park  
Carlin Yuen, University of Pennsylvania  
Kristy Zhen, Ithaca College  
Margaret Zheng, University of Maryland, College Park  
Sally Zhu, University of California, Los Angeles