June 17, 2010

The Honorable Mark Pryor
United States Senator
225 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Senator Pryor:

I am writing to respectfully request your support of the DREAM Act (S.729). As the number of immigrant students continues to increase in Arkansas, the issue of their undocumented immigration status should not be a barrier to higher education.

Passage of the Dream Act would allow undocumented students who graduated from a United States high school the opportunity to pursue their dreams and goals by attending Arkansas' colleges and universities and becoming productive members of our society. This Act also will address the financial needs of students by eliminating the federal provision that penalizes states that allow in-state tuition without regard to immigration status. In addition, it will restore authority to the states to determine tuition status for undocumented immigrant students, a concept I strongly support.

Arkansas State University, the state of Arkansas, and indeed the world, will benefit from passage of the DREAM Act. By providing access to higher education, we are helping individuals achieve the American dream of a better life. I would sincerely appreciate your careful consideration and active support of this legislation.

Very sincerely,

Leslie Wyatt
President

LW:bc
June 4, 2010

The Honorable Mark Pryor
U.S. Senator
255 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pryor:

I write to ask you for your support of the DREAM Act. On behalf of the students that UALR serves who are impacted by the issue of their undocumented immigration status, I want to emphasize the impact that S. 729 will have on these students and our state. An ever-growing immigrant population is now a reality in Arkansas and in a number of other states. There are students in our state who grew up in our towns and cities, attended Arkansas high schools and graduated alongside native-born students. They have the same potential, capacity, dreams and goals for academic success.

Passage of the DREAM Act would mean that these students can achieve a status of legal residence that will allow them to pursue a higher education. The act will remove the obstacle of not being eligible for certain financial aid programs. The DREAM Act would repeal section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which currently discourages states from providing in-state tuition or other higher education benefits without regard to immigration status. I strongly support the concept of restoring authority to the states to make their own decisions about the issue of in-state tuition for undocumented immigrant students.

The DREAM Act will not only be good for students. I believe that Arkansas will also benefit as a state by increasing access to higher education. Arkansas needs more college graduates and a more productive workforce — denying any child an education holds all of us back. These students likely will live in Arkansas their entire adult lives. Their children will be American citizens. If the DREAM Act passes, I don’t foresee a huge influx of immigrant students in Arkansas colleges and universities, but there would be an increase of capable, intelligent, motivated young people who want to achieve a college education.

Again, I request your support of the DREAM Act. I believe we will all see the benefits to our state from its passage.

Sincerely yours,

Joel E. Anderson
Chancellor