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# **DREAM Act Reintroduced In Congress**

## **Bill Would Help Promote Fairness And Equality In Access To Higher Education, Says ACLU**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 11, 2011

CONTACT: Claire O'Brien, (202) 675-2312; [media@dcacclu.org](mailto:media@dcacclu.org)

WASHINGTON – The American Civil Liberties Union today welcomed the reintroduction in the Senate of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, a bill that promotes fair access to higher education for all high school students, regardless of immigration status. The DREAM Act, reintroduced today by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) and 31 co-sponsors, came close to passage in the previous Congress, passing in the House and falling just five votes short of the 60 required to move forward in the Senate. The DREAM Act is also expected to be introduced today in the House by Reps. Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) with bipartisan support.

"Congress has a second chance to make the right choice where the last Congress failed and pass the DREAM Act, a bill that would help thousands of bright, talented students reach their full potential," said Laura W. Murphy, Director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office. "The DREAM Act is a quintessentially American bill that will allow motivated young people to secure a better future for themselves and their families by contributing to the U.S. economy and American institutions, and we urge Congress to pass it."

The DREAM Act would provide affordable post-secondary education and military service opportunities for young undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, have lived here for at least five years and have graduated from high school. The DREAM Act has the support of President Obama and former Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well as countless other public officials, military and business leaders and educators. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has underscored the DREAM Act's benefits for military recruitment.

The reintroduced bill includes a critical provision that would restore states' authority to determine students' residency for purposes of higher education benefits, a provision that was removed from the bill voted on by the last Congress.

"Passing the DREAM Act would be a watershed moment for immigrants' rights in America that is long overdue and vitally necessary," said Joanne Lin, ACLU Legislative Counsel. "The students who stand to benefit from this bill are talented, motivated young people who want to continue serving their communities and build a future in the U.S. It would be a tribute to American values of fairness and equal opportunity to give them the chance to match their capabilities with achievements that will help our nation grow. Congress must come together, regardless of party, to ensure that all students can access every educational and military opportunity they have rightly earned."

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Josh Goldstein/ Jennifer Angarita (202) 637-5018

**Statement by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka  
On the Introduction of the DREAM Act**

May 11, 2011

For young people today, there's not a lot of good news: Few jobs, bad wages, high rent and little recourse. For DREAM students, who have been in the United States for as long as they can remember, the news is a lot worse. They worry about being thrown out of their adopted home and have absolutely no chance of finding a job.

The AFL-CIO commends Sen. Durbin for introducing the DREAM Act today, which provides a way for bright and talented young people who grew up in America to legalize their status and achieve their potential. With the DREAM Act, these college educated workers or military veterans will be given the opportunity to contribute to our nation's economy and local communities instead of being thrown out of them.

We urge Republicans in Congress to put aside their partisan agenda, recognize the plight of these young Americans and take the moral path for our country and for our economy.

We commend the President for pushing for the DREAM Act, but the Administration can do more now to provide relief to these young people who continue to be arrested, jailed and threatened with deportation under his watch. The President can grant deferred action and other measures to DREAM Act eligible youth – so we can stop deporting our nation's future doctors, engineers and teachers.

We strongly support the swift passage of the DREAM Act and call on all elected leaders to protect the interests of our nation's youth and working people.

###



*A Union of Professionals*

## AFT News Release

For Immediate Release  
May 11, 2011

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### **Statement by Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers, Urging Congress To Pass the DREAM Act**

**WASHINGTON**—The DREAM Act is the right thing to do for our country and for immigrant youth who have shown, through their hard work and commitment, an irrepressible desire to achieve their dreams. We applaud U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and U.S. Reps. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) for reintroducing the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act today in Congress and for their tenacity in the face of indefensible opposition.

The bill would create a pathway to legal status for qualified students who come to the United States before the age of 16 if they, in addition to meeting other requirements, complete at least two years of college or military service.

Each year, about 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools. Among them are class leaders and valedictorians, straight-A students and idealistic young people whose goals include becoming tomorrow's nurses, engineers, computer programmers and soldiers. It is a travesty to maintain barriers that hold back these students, instead of creating opportunities. We strongly urge Congress to consider and pass the DREAM Act now.

###

The AFT represents 1.5 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; nurses and healthcare workers; and early childhood educators.

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

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**AILA WELCOMES INTRODUCTION OF DREAM ACT IN CONGRESS**

WASHINGTON, DC -- The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) welcomes the introduction today by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and many other congressional leaders of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, commonly known as the DREAM Act. The legislation gives thousands of young immigrants, who have grown up in the United States an opportunity to pursue the American dream. The DREAM Act passed the House of Representatives last November during the lame duck session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. While it had majority support in the Senate, it could not win enough votes to overcome procedural hurdles.

"Today's introduction marks a new day for the DREAM Act and the tens of thousands of high achieving young people who would benefit from the bill. This a new opportunity to get this bill over the finish line and onto the President's desk for his signature," said AILA President David Leopold.

AILA has supported the DREAM Act since its first introduction in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. The legislation would help tens of thousands of undocumented young people who have spent their childhoods in America to obtain legal standing by meeting certain criteria: They must have come to the U.S. before they turned 16, be under the age of 35, have lived in the U.S. for at least five years, graduated from high school or passed an equivalency exam, have "good moral character" and either attend college or enlist in the military for two years.

In addition to calling for Congressional action on this legislation that would fix a piece of the immigration system, AILA would also support efforts by the President and Administration to exercise discretion when handling the immigration cases of people who would benefit from the DREAM Act.

"The executive branch has the duty to set priorities in the enforcement of immigration laws, and this Administration has smartly focused on those convicted of serious crimes who threaten public safety. These DREAM kids are not the ones DHS should go after.

Let's deport the criminals and keep the students and servicemen here," concluded Leopold.

###

*The American Immigration Lawyers Association is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members.*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 11, 2011

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**Asian American Center for Advancing Justice Sees Reintroductions of DREAM Act as Critical Opportunity for Lasting Reform**

*Asian American groups applaud Senator Durbin and Representatives Berman and Ros-Lehtinen for their leadership on a bill that would help thousands of young people earn legal status*

**WASHINGTON** – The Asian American Center for Advancing Justice commends Senator Durbin (D-Ill.) and Representatives Berman (D-Calif.) and Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) for reintroducing the Development Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act). The DREAM Act would allow young people a path to legal immigration status by meeting strict requirements, including completing two years of college or military service.

“We applaud Senator Durbin and Representatives Berman and Ros-Lehtinen for their committed leadership on this issue,” said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center. “These young people are American in every sense except for paperwork, and passing the DREAM Act is just the first step in fixing our outdated immigration system.”

“I’m about to graduate from college with a degree I can’t even use if the DREAM Act doesn’t pass soon.” said Catherine, a 22-year-old undocumented Filipina San Francisco Bay Area resident. “I’ve been here almost all my life and I still feel like an outsider. All I want to do is give back to the community I call home.”

An estimated 65,000 students--many of whom are Asian Americans--graduate from a U.S. high school every year without legal immigration status.

“We are seeing more Asian American students get caught up in our broken immigration system and it just doesn’t make sense for us to deport these young people when they have been an integral part of the fabric of our society,” said Stewart Kwoh, president and executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

Last December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the DREAM Act and a majority of U.S. Senators approved it, but it was just five votes short of the 60 needed to overcome a Republican filibuster.

“This bill has a long history of broad bipartisan support and it would be a disappointment to see this common-sense bill get lost in party politics,” said Tuyet Le, executive director of the Asian American Institute.

Titi Liu, executive director of the Asian Law Caucus, added: “We need lasting immigration reforms for our country and we hope the Obama administration will show leadership and provide much needed administrative relief for these young people.”

# # #

*The Asian American Center for Advancing Justice* ([www.advancingjustice.org](http://www.advancingjustice.org)) works to promote a fair and equitable society for all by working for civil and human rights and empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities, and is comprised of the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C. ([www.advancingequality.org](http://www.advancingequality.org)), the Asian American Institute in Chicago ([www.aaichicago.org](http://www.aaichicago.org)), the Asian Law Caucus ([www.asianlawcaucus.org](http://www.asianlawcaucus.org)) in San Francisco and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center ([www.apalc.org](http://www.apalc.org)) in Los Angeles.





**Campus Progress Praises Re-Introduction of the DREAM Act**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 11, 2011

**Contact:** Katie Andriulli

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**WASHINGTON, DC**—Statement of Eduardo Garcia, Immigration Associate at Campus Progress (the youth division of the Center for American Progress), on the re-introduction of the DREAM Act today in the Senate and House:

Today, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) announced the reintroduction of the DREAM Act in the 112th Congress, and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) plan to introduce a similar bill in the House later this afternoon. The DREAM Act, which would give hardworking immigrant youth the opportunity to earn their legal status through higher education or military service, was originally introduced in 2001, and has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and from leaders in the business, religious, and civil rights communities. Today's announcements reflect that leaders on both sides of the aisle agree: The DREAM Act is commonsense legislation whose time has come.

The DREAM Act would benefit talented youth like Ana, a Sociology major at the University of California-Los Angeles, whose family came to the United States from the Philippines when she was only eight-years-old. Ana is a high-achieving student and a tireless advocate for the DREAM Act in her community. She hopes that Congress once again takes action on this bill so that she can pursue a career in journalism after completing her undergraduate studies.

President Obama has come out in strong support of the DREAM Act, and yet his administration has already deported more people than any before it. This discrepancy between the President's words and his actions has produced real, devastating consequences for DREAMers and their families. It is our sincere hope that, until the DREAM Act is passed, the President changes course and protects the future of Ana and others like her by steering clear of increasingly harsh and expensive enforcement policies that are leading our country down an unproductive and dangerous path.

Momentum around the DREAM Act has not diminished, even in a climate where political gridlock often stalls progress on pivotal, common-sense legislation. Campus Progress and the young people with whom we work believe in the American values of justice, fairness, and opportunity for all, which is why, together with DREAMers and allies, Campus Progress is renewing efforts to convince Congress to pass this critical legislation. We commend Senator Durbin and Representatives Berman and Ros-Lehtinen for their continued leadership on this issue, and for standing with immigrant youth. We look forward to continuing the fight together.

**For more information, or to speak to Eduardo Garcia, please contact Katie Andriulli at 202-481-8238 / [kandriulli@americanprogress.org](mailto:kandriulli@americanprogress.org).**

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*Campus Progress is the youth division of the Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan, nonprofit progressive organization. Through programs in activism, journalism, and events, Campus Progress helps young people make their voices heard now on issues that matter, and works with young leaders and organizations nationwide to build a strong, united progressive movement that can bring long-term positive change. Campus Progress runs a daily web magazine, [CampusProgress.org](http://CampusProgress.org); supports student publications on 50 campuses; supports local and national youth issue campaigns; and has held over 900 events. For more information, please visit [Campusprogress.org](http://Campusprogress.org).*

# Center for American Progress



## For Immediate Release

May 11, 2011

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## STATEMENT: CAP's Angela M. Kelley on DREAM Act Introduction

The following is a statement from Angela M. Kelley, Vice President for Immigration Policy and Advocacy at the Center for American Progress, on the introduction of the DREAM Act today in the U.S. House and Senate:

Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Harry Reid (D-NV), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), and their colleagues, as well as Reps. Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), are to be commended for reintroducing the [Development Relief and Education of Alien Minors or DREAM](#) Act today. Thirty-two senators have signed on as co-sponsors in a testament to the importance of this legislation and its broad support in Congress. We also want to acknowledge and congratulate Sens. Mark Begich (D-AK), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Chris Coons (D-DE) for signing on as original co-sponsors for the first time.

The DREAM Act is a sensible bill with strict requirements for a defined group of immigrant youth. [It provides a tough but fair pathway to legal status for undocumented children who complete high school and some college or military service](#). The bill recognizes the basic moral principle that children brought to this country at a young age, and who know no other home, should not be destined to living their lives on the margins of society. But this bill makes economic as well as moral sense. Passing this legislation will allow these youths to advance their studies or join the military, and to realize their full economic potential. That is [good for America](#) and according to one study [could add \\$1.4 trillion to the U.S. economy](#) in additional earnings over their lifetimes.

To be sure, the DREAM Act will not solve all of our immigration issues. But everyone should be able to agree that creating opportunities for the next generation of leaders in this country is something we can and should do now. Ultimately, Congress will need to overcome the partisan gridlock that has blocked the long overdue and desperately needed overhaul of our nation's immigration policies. Passing the DREAM Act would be a good step forward toward breaking that logjam.

The DREAM Act passed the House in December, and it came within a few votes of passing the Senate, with a majority of senators voting in favor. We can do better. Let's pass the DREAM Act now.

To speak to CAP's experts on this issue, please contact Raul Arce-Contreras at [rarcecontreras@americanprogress.org](mailto:rarcecontreras@americanprogress.org) or 202.478.5318.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2011

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## DREAM Act Provides a Brighter Future for Hundreds of Thousands of Children

**Washington D.C. –** Today, **Senator Dick Durbin** (D-IL) introduced the **Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act**. The bill would provide undocumented students who have grown up in the United States with the opportunity to earn permanent legal status by meeting certain requirements, including completing two years of college or military service.

**Bruce Lesley**, President of the **First Focus Campaign for Children**, issued the following statement:

“We are pleased that once again **Senator Durbin** is demonstrating his steadfast support of children and youth by introducing the DREAM Act. In doing so, he is heeding the advice of military, business, religious, and education leaders as well as listening to the majority of the American people who agree that this bill is the right thing to do for our children and our country. The young people who would benefit from the DREAM Act have grown up here, been educated in our schools, and deserve the opportunity to give back to the country they call home.

“Passage of the DREAM Act would mean that Eric Balderas, a Harvard biology major who came to the U.S. when he was just 4 years old, can pursue his dream of one day finding a cure for cancer. Passage of the DREAM Act would mean that Laura Lopez, a college graduate who was brought to the U.S. when she was just 1 year old, can achieve her dream of attending law school. And passage of the DREAM Act would mean that hundreds of thousands of children enrolled in our elementary and secondary schools can one day realize their dreams of becoming the future doctors, teachers, and engineers our nation so greatly needs. Nobody benefits from denying incredibly smart young people like Eric Balderas or Laura Lopez a pathway to citizenship in the United States. They have much to offer our country and it is a waste of human talent and skill to deny these young people the ability to give back to the only country they know and love.

“We applaud **Senator Durbin** and the **Administration** for continuing to champion this critical piece of legislation. In his 2012 State of the Union Address, the President stated that it ‘makes no sense’ to deport children who had nothing to do with the actions of their parents. Thus, we are deeply concerned that so many young people continue to be arrested, jailed and sometimes deported, and we strongly urge the

Administration to provide relief to these youth so that they no longer have to live in fear.

“We look forward to working with Congress, the Administration, national and state partners, and the young leaders of the DREAM movement to pass this important legislation. And until that day comes, we will also continue pushing for immediate solutions to protect these young people from further harm, and hold our nation’s leaders accountable for doing right by our children.”

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*The First Focus Campaign for Children is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization affiliated with First Focus, a bipartisan children’s advocacy organization. The Campaign for Children advocates directly for legislative change in Congress to ensure children and families are a priority in federal policy and budget decisions.*




## **HACU applauds DREAM Act reintroduction**

### **HACU requesting Deferred Action on DREAM Act student deportations**

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) strongly applauds the reintroduction of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) in the 112th Congress. The DREAM Act provides a path to citizenship for young undocumented immigrants and allows them to have access to benefits including the health care exchanges.

"We strongly support Senator Durbin's introduction of the DREAM Act in the Senate and Congressman Berman's and Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen's introduction of the bill in the House of Representatives in the 112th Congress and will continue to work to pass the legislation," said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores. The bills put deserving and hard-working young people who attend college or join the military on the path to U.S. citizenship.

HACU has taken a strong position in advocating for the DREAM Act for many years. On April 26, Flores sent a [letter to President Obama](#)  urging him to use his executive power to prevent the deportation of DREAM Act students. HACU is urging colleges and universities to send similar letters asking the President to stop the deportation of DREAM Act students.



## **HIAS Applauds Introduction of the DREAM Act**

(New York, NY – May 11, 2011) HIAS, the international migration agency of the American Jewish community, applauds Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA-28) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL-18) for their introduction of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act in both the House and the Senate. If passed, the DREAM Act would provide a six-year path to a green card for undocumented children brought to the U.S. more than five years ago if they graduate from high school and continue on to college or military service.

According to Melanie Nezer, HIAS' Senior Director for U.S. Policy and Advocacy, many of the 50,000-65,000 undocumented students who graduate from American high schools each year “were brought to the U.S. when they were very young and grew up in American schools, learning American values, and experiencing American culture.”

The DREAM Act would help break the cycle of underemployment, instability, and poverty endured by undocumented immigrants and could reduce dropout rates, criminal justice costs, and the need for public assistance. It would also reward good behavior by young people who, despite their circumstances, have worked hard and remained in school. Last December, despite bipartisan support from a majority of members of Congress, the Senate failed to invoke cloture on the DREAM Act.

[Click here](#) for more information about the DREAM Act.

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***Founded in 1881, HIAS, the international migration agency of the American Jewish community, is the oldest international migration and refugee resettlement agency in the United States. Dedicated to assisting persecuted and oppressed people worldwide and delivering them to countries of safe haven, to date HIAS has assisted more than 4.5 million people.***

## **For Immediate Release**

### **ILRC Commends Senators and Congresspersons for Introducing the DREAM Act on Wednesday, May 11**

San Francisco, May 11, 2011 -- The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), other organizations and DREAM Act students commend principal author, Senator Richard Durbin, co-sponsors Senators Boxer and Feinstein of California, and at least 25 other co-sponsors in the Senate, and Congressman Berman and other sponsors in the House for their planned introduction of DREAM Act legislation into the Senate and House on **Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**.

The DREAM Act, which based on last session's provisions of the bills, provides the opportunity for undocumented students who entered the United States as children to obtain legal status if they pursue college education or join the military.

The following is a statement by Mark Silverman, Director of Immigration Policy of the ILRC.

"The DREAM Act is good and fair for these children, good for our economy, and good older Americans who will be depending for the social security on contributions by younger workers and professionals, including the DREAM Act students, and generally good for our country. Currently, thousands of hard working young people who were brought to the United States as infants or children can be locked up in federal detention centers and deported to a country they've never known. Passage of the DREAM Act could stop the injustice by giving students who have grown up and graduated high school in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status through higher education or military service."

## **LIRS Calls on Congress to Finally Pass the DREAM Act**

**BALTIMORE, May 11, 2011**—Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) urges Congress to finally pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, legislation introduced today by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA-28) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL-18). “Today we applaud the re-introduction of the DREAM Act and call on Congress, at long last, to embrace these ambitious and talented youth as permanent members of our communities,” said LIRS President and CEO Linda Hartke. “Lutherans all across America stand for welcome and will not tire in extending opportunity to young people who strengthen the fabric of our nation.”

The DREAM Act is critical legislation that would provide lawful permanent residency to undocumented youth who attend college or serve in the U.S. military for two years. DREAM Act supporters include President Obama, Secretary of Defense Gates, Secretary of Education Duncan, Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano, and a number of former President George W. Bush Administration officials. Last year, despite the bipartisan support from a majority of members of Congress, the DREAM Act fell five votes short of passage in the Senate.

At the age of five, Cesar Vargas’s parents brought him to the United States from Mexico. Since then, he has completed high school and college. He is currently in his final year at the City University of New York School of Law, maintaining a 3.8 grade point average. Unfortunately, like hundreds of thousands of other young people across the United States, Cesar is undocumented. Without a change in U.S. immigration laws or policies, the United States loses out on the important contributions that Cesar and many other young people offer, such as filling key labor gaps in the U.S. economy, increasing the earning potential of a significant number workers and the strengthening of American communities.

For too many years, the U.S. immigration system has kept thousands of promising young people from achieving their potential. “Many of these children have a difficult life as a result of decisions made on their behalf. Decisions they had no say in,” lamented the Rev. Gregory S. Walton, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod President of the Georgia-Florida District. “We can give them a hopeful future and help them become responsible, productive citizens.” In December 2010, LIRS convened President Walton and more than 40 Lutheran leaders in Washington, DC to discuss faith-based responses on immigration and to meet with members of Congress to press for the passage of the DREAM Act.

LIRS welcomes refugees and migrants on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LIRS is nationally recognized for its leadership advocating with and on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, immigrants in detention, families fractured



by migration and other vulnerable populations, and for providing services to migrants through over 60 grassroots legal and social service partners across the United States.

If you have any questions about this statement, please feel free to contact Eric B. Sigmon, Director for Advocacy at (202) 626-7943 or via email at [esigmon@lirs.org](mailto:esigmon@lirs.org).

To read the December 20, 2010 LIRS response to the Senate DREAM Act vote, click here: <http://bit.ly/g5mj09>.

To read the December 17, 2010 LIRS statement on the DREAM Act, click here: <http://bit.ly/fHspPl>.

To read the December 8, 2010 DREAM Act statement from President Obama, click here: <http://bit.ly/exFu5E>.

To read the December 6, 2010 DREAM Act letter from the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, click here: <http://bit.ly/goqndi>.

To read the September 21, 2010 *New York Times* article about Cesar Vargas, click here: <http://nyti.ms/dmEb5s>.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2011

Contact: Miguel Oaxaca, 720-298-4448

## **MOP Applauds the Reintroduction of the DREAM Act**

MOP applauds Senators Bennet and Udall along with Senator Durbin and the 30 Senators who co-sponsored the Develop, Relief and Alien Minors (DREAM) Act in the US Senate, including Representatives Berman, Ros-Lehtinen and all of the co-sponsors for the DREAM Act in the House of Representatives.

As people of faith, we support the DREAM Act because we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being and allowing everyone to reach their God given potential. Currently, thousands of hard working young people who were brought to the United States as infants or children can be locked up in federal detention centers and deported to a country they have never known. Passage of the DREAM Act could stop this injustice by giving students who have grown up and graduated from high school in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status through two years of higher education or military service.

***Isaias Vasquez, a DREAM Act eligible student and leader with Metro Organizations for People (MOP), said, "Over the last ten years I have worked hard in school, but when I graduate with honors later this month, the path to my American Dream will come to an abrupt end. The DREAM act is my only hope. I thank our Members of Congress who champion the DREAM Act and are willing to fight alongside all of us for our chance to get an education and give back to our country."***

Though Congress has the ultimate responsibility to pass the DREAM Act, the PICO National Network also calls on President Obama to respond in the short term to the crisis facing these talented young people. President Obama has the executive authority to grant deferred action or similar measures to young people who would be eligible for the DREAM Act, allowing them to come out of the shadows to live and work without the threat of deportation until Congress passes the DREAM Act and puts them on the road to earned citizenship.

For more information, contact Kristee Paschall, [Kristee@mopdenver.org](mailto:Kristee@mopdenver.org)



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**For Immediate Release**

May 11, 2011

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**DREAM Act Re-introduced in 112<sup>th</sup> Congress**

Today, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) re-introduced the DREAM Act in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress with the co-sponsorship of 32 members of the U.S. Senate, including California Senators, Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dianne Feinstein, as well as Senator Akaka (D-HI), member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) and its affiliates, the Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC) in Chicago and the Korean Resource Center (KRC) in Los Angeles thank Senator Durbin for his continued leadership on the DREAM Act and take this opportunity to continue to organize and strengthen our communities for reform while highlighting the need for immediate relief of immigrant youth.

“The DREAM Act holds the change that so many undocumented students have been waiting for and it is a start to reforming America’s nonsensical immigration policies,” says Chris Nguyen, member of Fighting Youth Shouting Out for Humanity (FYSH), which is the youth leadership council of KRCC. “Youth have been disheartened at the stalled progress of the DREAM Act, but recognize the bill’s great potential.”

Last December, the DREAM Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in a historic vote, but fell five votes short of overcoming a filibuster in the Senate. The DREAM Act, if passed, would grant young people the chance to fully contribute to society and earn their way to U.S. citizenship, after completing an extensive set of requirements including attending college or serving in the military.

Sik Son, executive director of KRCC stated, “The people of this movement have endured many obstacles, but have built a spirit that is strong. We remain true to our hearts and yet again commit to tapping the potential and aspirations of our youth.”

“The re-introduction of the DREAM Act will allow us to continue the conversation on the need for reform,” said Dae Joong Yoon, executive director of KRC. “But we also know that while we recommit ourselves to this struggle, we need to ensure that our youth are safe and not feel the threat of deportation. We can do this with President Obama’s executive authority to grant deferred action.”

Most recently, 22 Senators sent a letter to President Obama urging him to grant DREAM-eligible students deferred action until legislative fixes are passed.

###

The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) was founded in 1994 by local community centers to project a national progressive voice and promote the full participation of Korean Americans as a part of a greater goal of building a national movement for social change. NAKASEC is based in Los Angeles and has an office in D.C. NAKASEC also has affiliates in Los Angeles (Korean Resource Center) and in Chicago (Korean American Resource & Cultural Center).



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**DREAM Act Re-introduced in 112<sup>th</sup> Congress**

**제 112 회 국회에서 재상정된 드림법안**

오늘, 제 112 회 국회에서 리처드 더빈 (D, IL) 상원의원은 캘리포니아 상원의원 바바라 박서와 다이앤 화인스타인, 또 국회 아시아 태평양계 간부회의 회원인 상원의원 아카카(D-hi) 등 32 명의 상원의원이 함께 지지하는 드림법안을 재 상정하였다.

미주한인봉사교육단체협의회(이하 미교협)와 그 가입단체인 로스앤젤레스 민족학교와 시카고 한인교육문화마당집은 드림 법안을 주장하는 더빈 상원의원의 지속적인 지도력에 감사하였다. 이민자 청년들을 즉각적으로 구제할 필요성을 강조하는 동안 우리는 이민정책 개선을 위해 우리 커뮤니티를 조직하고 강화할 기회를 가질 수 있다.

“너무나 많은 서류미비 학생들이 드림법안을 기다려 왔으며 이것은 미국의 터무니 없는 이민 정책을 개혁할 수 있는 시발점이 될 것이다.”라고 한인교육문화마당집의 청년단체인 Fighting Youth Shouting Out for Humanity (FYSH)회원 크리스 니구옌은 말하고 있다. “청년들은 드림법안의 통과가 지연되는 것에 낙담하였지만, 이 법안의 위대한 잠재력에 대해 인식하고 있다”

작년 12 월, 드림법안은 역사적으로 하원을 통과하였으나 상원에서의 의사진행방해를 극복하지 못하고 5 표가 부족해 상원을 통과하지 못하였다. 만약에 드림법안이 통과되었다면 젊은 사람들에게 충분히 사회 공헌할 기회를 제공하고 대학교를 졸업하거나 미군에 복무하는 것을 포함한 광범위한 요구 사항들을 마친 후 미국 시민권을 취득할 기회를 줄 수 있었다.

시카고 한인교육문화마당집의 손식 사무국장은 “이 운동에 참여했던 사람들은 많은 장애물을 극복하고 강한 정신력을 쌓았다. 우리는 다시금 우리 청년들의 잠재력과 포부가 열릴 수 있도록 진심으로 성원할 것이다.” 라고 말하였다.

드림 법안의 재상정은 이민개혁의 필요성에 대한 대화를 계속하도록 할 것입니다.’라고 민족학교의 윤대중 사무국장은 이야기한다 . 우리가 이 투쟁에 자신의 노력을 다시 기울이는 동안 우리 청년들이 추방의 위협을 느끼지 않을 수 있도록 해야 한다는 것을 알아야 합니다. 그래서 오바마 대통령이 연기 조치 승인 권한을 행사하도록 할 수 있습니다.”

최근에 22 명의 상원의원이 오바마 대통령에게 드림 법안의 자격이 되는 학생들에게 법안이 통과 될 때까지 연기 조치를 하라는 편지를 보냈다.

###

**미주한인봉사교육단체협의회(이하 미교협)**는 지역 커뮤니티 단체들이 함께 모여 코리안 아메리칸의 진보적인 목소리를 전국적으로 전달하고 이들의 사회 참여를 증진하는 것을 목표로 설립하게 되었습니다 미교협은 로스앤젤레스에 전국 사무실을 두고, 2008 년 9 월에는 워싱턴 디씨 사무실을 개설했으며, 가입단체로는 시카고 한인교육문화마당집과 로스앤젤레스 민족학교가 있습니다.



## NEWS RELEASE

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund

For Immediate Release  
May 11, 2011

Contact: Patricia Guadalupe (202) 546-2536  
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# NALEO EDUCATIONAL FUND SUPPORTS DREAM ACT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

*WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund issued the following statement regarding the introduction today of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act in both the Senate and House.*

“We applaud the actions of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Majority Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Robert Menéndez (D-NJ) and 30 of their colleagues in support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

We also praise the bipartisan efforts of Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Howard Berman (D-CA) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) for introducing similar legislation in the House.

The DREAM Act would strengthen our economy and society by enabling thousands of students to pursue opportunities in college, the military or trade schools. It allows our country to benefit from the economic and social contributions of immigrant youth. Those who will benefit from the DREAM Act are precisely the individuals we want in our country.

The DREAM Act is a proposal that has wide bipartisan support and is a legislative priority for the Latino electorate. The NALEO Educational Fund urges passage of the DREAM Act, which ensures that motivated and accomplished immigrant students brought here at a young age through no fault of their own continue their education and journey toward becoming full Americans.”

#####

### **ABOUT NALEO Educational Fund**

*The NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*



## National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health Applauds the Re-Introduction of the DREAM Act

May 12, 2011

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) applauds Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and the many congressional cosponsors for re-introducing the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minor, commonly known as the DREAM Act.

We also thank President Obama for reaffirming his support of the DREAM Act in El Paso Tuesday where he remarked that to punish children who grew up in this country is cruel. "We're a better nation than that," President Obama said.

As the President acknowledged in his speech, there is a real human toll to the broken immigration system. That is true especially for immigrant Latinas who are likely to be the primary bread earners in their families. Equality for immigrant women can only be attained when immigrant women can live free from discrimination, oppression and violence in all their forms. We believe it is imperative that organizations advocating for comprehensive immigration reform also support fair and just immigration policies that protect the rights of immigrant women.

Educational attainment is one way that Latinas can have access to information, resources and services that will help them make informed and autonomous decisions. NLIRH extends its support to the DREAM Act and the young immigrant activists and legislators who have worked to bring this bill to the forefront.

In short, the DREAM Act would allow undocumented youth who have grown up in the United States to step out of the shadows, pursue education and accomplish their goals.

The DREAM Act has a tough road to passage even though it has a wide band of support from the business community, the labor community, military leaders, teachers, principles, state and local government officials, and community leaders. Because of this difficult outlook we join with advocates throughout the country that are asking the Administration to be willing to defer removal of any DREAM eligible student caught up in the current immigration system.

Passage of the DREAM Act would be a tremendous accomplishment for the millions of Latinas that we represent. That's why as we fight for the equality, dignity and human rights of immigrant women NLIRH will also continue to work with the Administration and lawmakers to strengthen and support this bill.

For more information about NLIRH's work to advance the rights of immigrant women or our leadership on the National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights, please visit the [NCIWR website](#).



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 11, 2011

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## **NCLR APPLAUDS THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE “DREAM ACT”**

**Washington, D.C.**—Today, NCLR (National Council of La Raza) commended Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., and his colleagues for reintroducing the “[Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors \(DREAM\) Act](#)” and praised Reps. Howard Berman, D-Calif., Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., for reintroducing their complementary version of the legislation into the U.S. House of Representatives.

The “DREAM Act” is a commonsense measure that will allow immigrant students who were raised in the U.S. and attend college or serve in the military to earn their legal immigration status. The legislation passed in the U.S. House of Representatives last year and received a bipartisan majority vote in the U.S. Senate, but that was not enough to overcome a filibuster by opponents. Following a call made by President Obama yesterday for Congress to act, these leaders have introduced a bill that is clearly necessary from an immigration perspective, as well as from an education, economic, and military-readiness standpoint.

“This legislation will allow our nation to maintain competitiveness in the global economy by enabling students who have been raised here and who seek to be a part of a highly educated workforce the opportunity to pursue the American Dream,” said Clarissa Martínez De Castro, NCLR Director of Immigration and National Campaigns. “We continue to hear from many young people who are eager to give back to our country and who join us in calling on Congress to pass the ‘DREAM Act.’”

One student whose story represents those with high hopes that the “DREAM Act” will be approved is Emilio, a young man who was brought to the U.S. by his parents when he was six years old: “I went through elementary, middle, and high school in North Carolina, and it is the only place that I call home. I graduated from high school in 2010 as one of the top ten students in my class, as an honor student, an AP scholar with hundreds of hours of community service, and I was awarded a full-ride scholarship to my first choice university. However, unless the broken immigration system is fixed, when I graduate from college in four years I won’t be able to use my college degree. My dream is to give back to my community.”

There are many more potential beneficiaries of the “DREAM Act,” and like Emilio, they attend colleges and universities, and in some cases their extraordinary academic abilities lead them to enroll in graduate programs. Yet, they are never able to put their degrees to use for our nation’s



benefit. Businesses, military leaders, and educators have long supported the “DREAM Act.” Our country has invested in the education of many of these individuals since kindergarten, and it is only proper to allow them to fully contribute through their merits and service.

“Our country needs and will benefit immensely from these young people and their talents and their drive to succeed. From a moral, economic, and policy perspective, America cannot afford to lose another generation of young people who stand to contribute to its economic and social prosperity,” concluded Martínez De Castro.

NCLR—the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States—works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. For more information on NCLR, please visit [www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

###



*Great Public Schools for Every Student*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 11, 2011**

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## **NEA President applauds reintroduction of DREAM Act in Senate, House** ***Bill provides path to legal status for undocumented minors***

WASHINGTON—The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act will be reintroduced on the floors of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, according to an announcement made in a Senate press conference today. The DREAM Act would provide a path to legal status for young people whose parents brought them to the United States as undocumented children years ago.

“This legislation is a fair, practical solution that upholds the best of our country’s shared values of fairness, accountability, and a strong work ethic,” said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel.

Under the DREAM Act, undocumented students must have entered the country when they were 15 or younger and graduated high school or obtained a GED. To receive a green card, the bill requires them to complete two years in the military or two years of college—plus a 10-year waiting period. Only then would they be eligible to apply for citizenship.

Last December, the bill was derailed by a Senate filibuster. The bill that will be introduced in both houses this year is similar to legislation that passed the House late last year, by a vote of 216 to 198.

Senate sponsors Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) announced today that the bill will be reintroduced on the Senate floor. Reps. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) will reintroduce the bill in the House.

“Thank you to Sen. Durbin and all the dedicated co-sponsors in both the Senate and House who heard the voices of students who have worked hard in school in order to succeed in America—the country they call home,” said Van Roekel.

“Without the DREAM Act, these children will be condemned to live in the shadows of the country they love, surviving in an underground economy where they will be exploited and abused and where their gifts and talents will be lost to our communities – to our country’s future,” said NEA Vice President Lily Eskelsen.

“We urge Congress to pass the DREAM Act to allow these students to achieve their dreams and to continue contributing to their communities and society,” added Van Roekel.

Follow us on twitter at [www.twitter.com/NEAMedia](http://www.twitter.com/NEAMedia)

# # #

*The National Education Association is the nation’s largest professional organization, representing 3.2 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.*

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 11, 2011

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### REVIVING THE DREAM

#### Reintroduction of the DREAM Act Underscores Need for Immediate Action

**WASHINGTON, DC** -- *Today, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and 32 cosponsors introduced the DREAM Act, legislation that, if passed, would provide undocumented youth who were brought to the U.S. as children a path to citizenship if they attend college for two years or enlist in the military. Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) also will introduce similar legislation in the House of Representatives today. This legislation, which has been introduced in every congressional session since 2001, has received widespread support from the business, labor, education, and faith sectors, and enjoys high public approval ratings. Below is a statement from Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center:*

“Senator Durbin, Representative Berman, Representative Ros-Lehtinen, and the other members of Congress who cosponsored this legislation recognize that passing this bill cannot come quickly enough for the young men and women — and children — whom it affects. Every day, talented young people are caught in the immigration enforcement dragnet and deported. That’s why, a few weeks ago, several senators also sent a letter to President Obama urging him to use his executive authority to make deferred action available on a more systematic basis to DREAM-eligible individuals, and thus to provide these Americans-at-heart a more reliable means of avoiding being deported from the only country they know.

“Last year, after a thrilling win in the House of Representatives, the DREAM Act, like so much other commonsense legislation that had been proposed, fell victim to partisan politics. The loss wasn’t felt only by the children affected by this legislation; it was felt by the entire Latino community, who watched the vote as it was broadcast live by the country’s two largest Spanish-language television networks.

“Yesterday, during a major address on immigration, President Obama reaffirmed his support for this much-needed legislation. Unfortunately, the Department of Homeland Security continues to deport young DREAMers, even though they may be mere months away from having the opportunity to normalize their immigration status. While our greatest hope is that the DREAM Act becomes law, until then, we call on President Obama to use prosecutorial discretion to grant relief to these students. We cannot continue to lose these vital members of our communities. Our economy and society are suffering because of inaction.”

# # #



### Students Should Get Another Chance at the DREAM

Today, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) reintroduced the DREAM Act, a bill that would allow access to affordable postsecondary education, opportunities for military service and potentially a path to full citizenship to thousands of qualified young students striving for a better future.

Michael Keegan, president of People For the American Way, issued the following statement:"

Despite last year's setback, the DREAM is still alive for the 65,000 young men and women who epitomize the highest ideals of what it means to be American: the willingness to work hard, the perseverance to succeed despite tough odds, and above all, the dedication to making America a better place. Any young person who is willing to give back to this country by continuing their education or joining the military deserves an opportunity to gain legal citizenship. These outstanding young people—who have committed no wrongs—deserve a chance to realize the American dream that all parents hope for their children. The U.S. Congress should pass the DREAM Act to reflect America's commitment to fair treatment for all."

###



### **African American Ministers Support the DREAM Act**

Today, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) reintroduced the DREAM Act, a bill that would allow access to affordable postsecondary education, opportunities for military service and potentially a path to full citizenship to thousands of qualified young students striving for a better future.

**Leslie Watson Malachi, director of African American Ministers in Action, a program of People For the American Way, issued the following statement:**

“As people of faith, we cannot stand by while young people are treated like criminals for nothing more than hard work and a desire to be part of the country they know and love. The DREAM Act is a common-sense solution that would remove barriers preventing honorable young people—who were brought to this country as children through no fault of their own—from going to college, serving in the military and contributing to society. It reflects our nation’s highest ideals as the land of hope and opportunity, and we refuse to let the divisive politics of fear deny so many dedicated young people the chance to make America a better place.”

*African American Ministers in Action, a program of People For the American Way, is an alliance of over 700 progressive African American clergy supporting social justice, civil rights, and reproductive health and justice.*

###



### Young People for the American DREAM

Today, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) reintroduced the DREAM Act, a bill that would allow access to affordable postsecondary education, opportunities for military service and potentially a path to full citizenship to thousands of qualified young students striving for a better future.

“We firmly believe that if all students have the opportunity to afford higher education or serve in the armed forces, they will undoubtedly become a vital part of the fabric of American society, economy and culture,” said **Rebecca Thompson, director of YP4 Action, a program of People For the American Way.** “Throughout our lives, we are told that if you work hard and play by the rules, you have a chance to succeed. These kids, who were brought to this country through no fault of their own, did just that. It’s time to stop treating innocent young people like criminals—the DREAM Act offers a path to citizenship to youth who have demonstrated their commitment to making America a better place. We urge the U.S. Congress to support the DREAM Act and make the American dream a possibility for all.”

###

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**

May 11, 2011

Carmen Medrano: Cell #303-385-7732

## **PICO National Network Applauds the Reintroduction of the DREAM Act**

The PICO National Network applauds Senator Durbin and the 32 Senators who co-sponsored the Develop, Relief and Alien Minors (DREAM) Act in the US Senate, as well as Representatives Berman, Ros-Lehtinen and all of the co-sponsors for the DREAM Act in the House of Representatives.

As people of faith, we support the DREAM Act because we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, allowing everyone to reach their God given potential. Currently, thousands of hard working young people who were brought to the United States as infants or children can be locked up in federal detention centers and deported to a country they've never known. Passage of the DREAM Act could stop this injustice by giving students who have grown up and graduated high school in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status through two years of higher education or military service.

*Isaias Vasquez, a DREAM Act eligible student and leader with Metro Organizations for People (MOP), a PICO federation in Denver, CO, said, "Over the last ten years I have worked hard in school, but when I graduate with honors later this month, the path to my American Dream will come to an abrupt end. The DREAM act is my only hope. I thank our Members of Congress who champion the DREAM Act and are willing to fight alongside all of us for our chance to get an education and give back to our country."*

Though Congress has the ultimate responsibility to pass the DREAM Act, the PICO National Network also calls on President Obama to respond in the short term to the crisis facing these talented young people. President Obama has the executive authority to grant deferred action or similar measures to young people who would be eligible for the DREAM Act, allowing them to come out of the shadows to live and work without the threat of deportation until Congress passes the DREAM Act and puts them on the road to earned citizenship.

The PICO National Network is the largest faith based community organizing network in the nation with 48 federations organizing in 150 cities and 17 states across the nation. We have thousands of students and young people in our network who know first-hand how desperately our country needs this legislation. PICO faith and community leaders agree that we must support our talented youth and give them the opportunities to succeed and give back to the communities they call home. The DREAM Act is the right thing to do for our youth, our communities and our nation.

PICO National is a network of forty-five faith-based federations that organize communities for change and represent more than one-million families across the nation. For more information, go to [www.piconetwork.org](http://www.piconetwork.org)

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For Immediate Release

May 11, 2011

Contact: Gebe Martinez [gebe.martinez@seiu.org](mailto:gebe.martinez@seiu.org) 202-730-7152

*SEIU's Medina: DREAMers Have Not Given Up and Neither Should Congress*

WASHINGTON, DC -- SEIU applauds the introduction of the DREAM Act by Senate Democratic Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) and more than 30 senators, and also in the House where a bipartisan bill has been offered by Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif. and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. The DREAM Act, which won House approval last December but failed in the Senate, is a limited measure that lets immigrant youths serve in the military, earn an education and contribute to the economy of the country where they have grown up. SEIU International Secretary-Treasurer Eliseo Medina issued the following statement:

"It has been reported that a son of Mexican immigrants who was born in the U.S. was among the American heroes in the Navy SEALs squadron that brought Osama Bin Laden to justice. The report reminded us of the dreams of millions of youths in our country who want to serve the country that is their home but cannot advance because they were brought into this country without proper documents.

"The DREAM Act would let these children apply for legal status after meeting a two-year college requirement or serving in the U.S. military. It is an investment in our nation's future and our economic and national security.

"By calling on Congress to resume debate on the DREAM Act, the bill's sponsors are reaffirming public support for this common sense bill.

"According to DHS, each person deported costs the U.S. treasury \$12,500. It is irresponsible and futile to thousands of dollars deporting honor students. Last month, 22 senators wrote to President Obama, urging his administration to conserve Homeland Security resources by deferring deportation action against young people who would meet the rigorous requirements of the proposed DREAM Act. The senators argued, quoting the President's State of the Union message, that we should 'stop expelling talented, responsible young people who could be staffing our research labs or starting a new business, who could be further enriching this nation.'

"Now, Congress has another chance to pass the DREAM Act. Let's hope hard-liner Republicans will refrain from the politics of fear and the pandering to the worst elements of their party. The DREAMers have not given up. Neither should Congress."



## news

### For Immediate Release

May 16, 2011

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## TESOL Applauds Re-Introduction of the DREAM Act in the U.S. Congress

*Statement from TESOL Executive Director Rosa Aronson, PhD, CAE*

Last week (9 May 2011) the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act was reintroduced on the floors of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), the global association for English language educators worldwide, commends the leadership of Senate sponsors Dick Durbin (D-IL), Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), and Robert Menendez (D-J) and House sponsors Howard Berman (D-CA) and Illeana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) for their leadership in bringing this important issue forward.

TESOL has long supported passage of the DREAM Act, as it will have a direct impact upon the lives of many of the students that TESOL members work with daily, and will enable these students to make significant contributions to the country that they call home. Thousands of undocumented students who have lived in the United States for five years or more graduate from U.S. high schools each year. Many of these students started as English language learners and have gone on to excel in school, contribute to their community, and even become valedictorians. Tragically, many of these students are unable to pursue their dreams of higher education because of the enormous barriers created by their lack of legal status, a situation not of their own choosing.

The DREAM Act will help lower these barriers and provide conditional residency and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrant youth. In addition, the DREAM Act puts access to higher education within reach for many such students who are often not eligible for in-state tuition rates at public universities. By lowering the barriers that prevent access to higher education for these students, the DREAM Act would contribute to a more highly skilled workforce and help these students continue to be productive members of their communities.

**-MORE-**

## ***TESOL Applauds Re-Introduction of the DREAM Act in the U.S. Congress***

In 2010 the DREAM Act came very close to becoming a reality by passing the House, only to be thwarted at the last minute by a Senate filibuster. The DREAM Act is a practical, fair solution that upholds values of fair opportunity and a strong work ethic. TESOL urges Congress to pass this important legislation this year.

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Founded in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL) is a professional community of educators, researchers, administrators and students committed to advancing excellence in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide. With more than 12,000 members representing 156 countries, TESOL fosters the exchange of ideas, research and peer-to-peer knowledge, and provides expertise, resources and a powerful voice on issues affecting the profession. Through professional development programs, its International Conference, special interest groups and publications, TESOL engages tens of thousands of professionals to collaborate globally and create a world of opportunity for millions of people of all ages who want to learn English.



**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
**3211 Fourth Street, NE**  
**Washington, DC 20017-1194**

May 11, 2011

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), I write to express the strong support of the U.S. Catholic bishops for the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which you re-introduced in the Senate on May 11, 2011.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to you for your ongoing support of the DREAM Act, which will benefit immigrant children who have grown up here and who have already demonstrated their commitment to our country.

As you know, the DREAM Act would provide a path to lawful permanent residence status for unauthorized immigrants who entered the United States as children, lived here for at least five years, are of good moral character, and have served in the military or been admitted to an institution of higher education, graduated high school, or received a GED.

In so doing, the DREAM Act ensures that children in the United States without legal status, who did not come to the United States by choice, are not punished for decisions made by their parents.

The DREAM Act also prevents the unnecessary and devastating separation of families. Since most DREAM Act-eligible children have parents or siblings in the United States, the failure to protect them from eventual deportation will inevitably lead to the breaking apart of families.

In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, DREAM Act-eligible children are among the most vulnerable of the unauthorized population in the United States today. We have a choice as a nation – either to ensure that these capable and patriotic long-term members of U.S. society fulfill their promise and serve our country or to separate them from their families and communities and return them to nations they do not know. It is morally incumbent upon us as a nation to choose the former, not the latter.

I thank you again for your advocacy on behalf of DREAM Act-eligible immigrant youth and applaud your decision to re-introduce the Act for consideration by the Congress. Please consider the U.S. Catholic bishops as strong supporters in working to advance this important piece of legislation to its eventual passage.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration



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## Statement from the United We Dream Network on the reintroduction of the DREAM Act:

### *Our movement continues to do its part, Obama when will you do yours?*

We want to thank our champions, Senator Durbin, Menendez, and Reid among the 32 Democratic Senators who demonstrate leadership and commitment to Dreamers and their family's by introducing the Federal DREAM Act today in the Senate. We also want to thank our champions in the House, Reps. Berman and Ros-Lehtinen, for their complimentary introduction in the House later this week. Our movement has swept the nation, passing State-level DREAM Act bills in CA and MD, and beating back AZ-copycats in keys states like Florida this past week. We welcome our champions in congress to the movement to secure access to college and legal status for immigrant youth in the U.S. Your commitment and willingness to stick your necks out for us, is indicative of your courage, and we look forward to working with you to secure the DREAM Act and other needed reforms are brought to the President's desk in this session.

Yesterday, President Obama addressed a crowd in El Paso Texas regarding immigration Reform. Dreamers from across the country watched waiting and hoping to see a concrete action plan that would complement today's historic introduction of a bill that would bring relief to the more than 2 million Dreamers that would qualify for the DREAM Act. Marisol Davila, a Texas Dreamer and leader in United We Dream, reacted, "I was hoping to see a president in action instead I saw a candidate running for office copying and pasting parts of speeches given since 2008."

Despite the American Immigration Council report that clearly details the President's power to stop and delay the deportation of immigrant groups, Obama continues to deny his power. As Chief Immigration Officer he continues to deport Dreamers and their families, despite the support of 20 Senators in his own party, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, national business, and faith leaders for immediate

administrative action while congress takes up the issue in this session. We applaud the courage of these leaders who place their political careers on the line in the name of urgent justice; it saddens us to see the President not take up the common-sense demands of his colleagues.

Our President then went on to demonstrate all the leadership and contribution his administration has made to enforcement, as he admitted knowing that the leaders who demand an enforcement-only approach will never be satisfied. While he listed his Administration's investment in over 20,000 Border Agents, fences, and drone aircraft, we heard crickets when it came to the many actions he has taken to secure relief for our youth and families.

The President called such action "undemocratic", passing his keys to a congress that has yet to muster the courage to pass this widely accepted piece of immigration reform in the past decade. He blamed it on partisan divides. Although we recognize the complete lack of touch the Republican Party has on this widely-accepted issue we also point out the fact that 5 Senators of his party voted against DREAM in the previous lame duck session, and we only saw action from his Office in the final days. When it comes to addressing the fate of a constituency who has waited over a decade for this issue to move in Washington, Ada Fuentes, Massachusetts Dreamer puts it "We are tired of Obama being our cheerleader we want him to start acting like a quarterback."

Change takes courage and we hope President Obama can alleviate some of the pain and end the deportations of dreamers, as our Champions in congress work to bring forth legislation that would put to rest this long overdue debate over the fate of immigrant youth in the US. President Obama asked us to join his movement for these reforms, yet today we ask Obama, "When will you join OUR Movement and demonstrate the risk and courage his colleagues and Dreamers across America have demonstrated in the past decade." This is not the first time he and his administration will hear this and it won't be the last until we see results from his office. We ask all, especially President Obama to register his actions at [www.unitedwedream.org](http://www.unitedwedream.org) and join US in the movement to win relief and college access for ALL immigrant youth.

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*United We Dream Network is a national network of immigrant youth that organize and advocate for access to college and legal status for ALL. We have members in over 25 states, you can learn more at [www.unitedwedream.org](http://www.unitedwedream.org)*