

THE DREAM ACT

Good for Florida's Economy; Good for Florida's Future

December 2010

The Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (S. 729; H.R. 1751) is a bipartisan bill that would give undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as young children a path toward legal status if they attend college or serve in the military. For many of these young people, the U.S. is the only home they know, and English is their first language. They have the potential to be future doctors, nurses, teachers, soldiers, and entrepreneurs. The DREAM Act will provide an opportunity for them to live up to their full potential and make greater contributions to the U.S. economy and society.

■ The DREAM Act will boost Florida's economic recovery.

- The State of Florida is struggling with a budget shortfall of at least \$2.5 billion for next year. The DREAM Act will help reduce Florida's deficit by increasing tax revenues.
- A conservative estimate finds that the average DREAM Act beneficiary student will earn \$1 million more over his or her lifetime simply by obtaining legal status. Each DREAM student's earnings will net tens of thousands of additional dollars in taxes for state and local treasuries.

■ Florida is one of the top beneficiaries of the DREAM Act.

- Approximately 192,000 students – 9 percent of all potential DREAM beneficiaries in the country – live in Florida. Every beneficiary of the DREAM Act will be a college or military-bound high school graduate.
- The average college graduate earns over 60 percent more than the average high school graduate over his or her lifetime. According to the Internal Revenue Service, a typical single person who graduates with a bachelor's degree makes an average annual salary of \$60,000 and will generate about \$11,194 in tax revenue every year.
- If only half of Florida's DREAM students attain a bachelor's degree, they will generate over \$1 billion in tax revenue for Florida a year (\$11,194 X 96,000 DREAM students).

■ The DREAM Act invests in Florida's future.

- Florida DREAM students have been raised and educated in the state, and taxpayers have already invested in the elementary and secondary education of these children. DREAM students are fully assimilated into the American way of life and are ready to give back to the state they consider home.
- According to Florida State University, only 5 percent of undocumented high-school graduates go to college. The DREAM Act would create a strong incentive for undocumented students to remain in school until graduation. Some of these students will go on to pursue careers like nursing, thereby helping to resolve the state's rising demand for such positions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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