The Honorable Mary Landrieu  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

I am writing to urge your support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (S. 729), which Senator Harry Reid will bring up for a vote as an amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill next week. The DREAM Act would create a pathway through which certain undocumented students could obtain conditional permanent residency and, ultimately, American citizenship.

Every year approximately 65,000 young people graduate from high school in the U.S. but are unable to go to college, work, or join the military because their parents brought them to the U.S. as children without legal documents. Their lack of legal status prevents them from pursuing their dreams and their full human potential. As the president of a university committed to providing young people the education and formation experiences that allow them to realize their God-given potential, I find it a tragedy to senselessly deny opportunity to talented, intelligent, and dedicated students who only know the U.S. as their home.

The DREAM Act enjoys bipartisan support. Education, military, and business leaders support the DREAM Act. A June 2010 national poll by the Opinion Research Corporation found that 70% of adults surveyed supported the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act also makes economic sense and is a great return on our country’s investment in these children’s primary and secondary schooling.

Senator Landrieu, you have long been a champion for children’s issues. Your public support of the DREAM Act could be pivotal for its success. Please support this vital piece of legislation that could bring hope and dignity to so many deserving young people.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Kevin Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.
President

17 September 2010