June 11, 2010

The Honorable Scott Brown  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kerry  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Brown and Kerry:

I write to express my support for S.729, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

Widespread access to education and immigration are two of the most significant engines that have fueled the success of our democracy. America has woven new people and new ways of thinking into its social fabric since the founding, and it is that very diversity and inclusivity that has been our nation’s greatest strength in prosperous times and in moments of crisis.

The American education system—and our society as a whole—is predicated on the principle that talent must be able to rise. The DREAM Act removes a needless obstacle to that upward mobility for thousands of children who currently have too few opportunities to complete a level of education that will enable them to contribute fully to our economy and the public good. Our country can ill afford to lose the talents, perspectives, ideas and solutions that may be offered by these bright young people who deserve a pathway to life as engaged and thoughtful American citizens.

I am reassured, as I think the overwhelming majority of Americans will be, that the bill offers robust safeguards to ensure that its beneficiaries are longtime U.S. residents fully invested in the American way of life, that they are law-abiding, engaged in their communities, and that they will only receive a chance at citizenship if they fulfill their obligation to complete an education or a period of military service with honorable discharge. The DREAM Act does not offer a handout, but rather a hand up—a fair chance to fully partake in the benefits of a free and democratic society—to young people who are denied that opportunity through no fault of their own.
I strongly encourage you to further the progress of S.729 and help bring the promise of a college education and the hope of a better life to young people who desperately need it and have much to offer our great nation.

Yours,

[Signature]

Anthony W. Marx

AWM/rlp
September 20, 2010

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Scott Brown
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry and Senator Brown:

We understand that the Senate may soon consider the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors or DREAM Act and we write to urge your support for this critical measure that will assist thousands of students in Massachusetts and across the country to reach their full potential and contribute to their home communities.

Each of us is deeply committed to access and believes that education and service are the pathways to better neighbors, stronger communities, and economic growth, as well as personal satisfaction and happiness. The DREAM Act would provide an opportunity for promising students, who through no fault of their own arrived in the United States without legal status as minors and yet are working hard and achieving in our schools and communities, and grant them the temporary legal status that would allow them to pursue a post-secondary education or serve in the military.

There is no doubt that with or without the DREAM Act, these young people will be living, studying, and working to get by in our communities. The DREAM Act will offer them and us the potential of harnessing their full talents on behalf of all of us.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Drew Gilpin Faust
President
Harvard University

Lawrence S. Bacow
President
Tufts University

Robert A. Brown
President
Boston University

Joseph E. Aoun
President
Northeastern University

Susan Hockfield
President
MIT

Jack M. Wilson
President
UMass

Keith Motley
Chancellor
UMass Boston

Fr. William Leahy
President
Boston College
May 18, 2009

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

I am writing to share with you my strong support for S. 729, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, and to thank you for your co-sponsorship and efforts in behalf of this vitally important legislation.

At Harvard, we have dedicated substantial attention and resources to improve access to higher education—certainly with our own financial aid initiatives for students at Harvard College, but also in our local communities with efforts to support talented students in Boston and Cambridge schools who are seeking higher education. We find that students are working hard, taking high level classes, serving in their communities, and dedicating themselves to their dreams of higher education and to fulfilling the promise of their future. For many, it is not easy with family challenges, under-resourced secondary schools, economic pressures, and myriad other issues, including, for a few, immigration status issues.

The DREAM Act would throw a lifeline to these students who are already working hard in our middle and high schools and living in our communities by granting them the temporary legal status that would allow them to pursue postsecondary education. I believe it is in our best interest to educate all students to their full potential—it vastly improves their lives and grows our communities and economy. This bill will help move us closer to this goal.

I greatly appreciate your leadership on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Drew Gilpin Faust
September 20, 2010

The Honorable Scott Brown
United States Senate
317 Russell Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to respectfully request your support for the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act as an amendment to the FY2011 Department of Defense Authorization Act. Salem State University's mission is to provide a diverse community of learners a high quality, student-centered education; one that prepares them to contribute responsibly and creatively to a global society. As a public institution of higher education, we are committed to affordable education for motivated students. Salem State is also committed to supporting the economic growth of Essex County, Massachusetts and our nation through educating the workforce of the future.

I support the DREAM Act because it will allow accomplished undocumented students who have graduated from American high schools to apply for six-year conditional permanent residency status in order to pursue their post-secondary education or serve in the U.S. military. It would also allow states to set in-state tuition for undocumented students, as it does for all other students who apply to our public institutions.

Salem State is a large comprehensive university that educates the workforce of the future in professions for which our commonwealth and the nation have a great need, including healthcare workers, social workers, entrepreneurs, and teachers. A recent report by the Center for Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University states that by 2018 "we will need 22 million new college degrees to meet employers' demands but at current graduation rates, we will fall short of that number by at least 3 million postsecondary degrees, associate or better." America needs to educate the best and brightest that our high schools have produced, whether they are undocumented, legal immigrants, or native born. Providing a path to legal citizenship for our undocumented American high school educated young men and women so they may pursue a post-secondary degree and become productive, tax-paying members of our society is important to our economic future.

I give you the example of a 19 year old student from the Dominican Republic. Brought to the United States by his family at a young age, he earned his high school diploma from an American high school where he secured a strong GPA and the credentials to be a very well qualified applicant for Salem State University. His efforts and success remain unrewarded, however, because he cannot apply to the university with his current undocumented status. Instead, he is performing menial work wherever he can find it to survive. This young man has no home to return to in the Dominican Republic. The United States is his home, yet here, his talents go wasted.
Salem State University, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the New England region will benefit from passage of the DREAM Act. I ask you to help us provide access to higher education and citizenship for these students.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patricia Maguire Messervey
President

http://cew.georgetown.edu/JOBS2018/
April 14, 2010

The Honorable Scott Brown
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to express my support for S. 729, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

As an institution of higher education that seeks to prepare students for a life of active citizenship in an increasingly interdependent world, Tufts University supports the DREAM Act’s goals of diversity and increased access to higher education. The undocumented immigrant students who would be the major beneficiaries of this legislation have shown their commitment to civic engagement. There are countless examples of undocumented students who excel in school, volunteer in their community, and qualify for financial aid only to discover in their senior year of high school just how limited their prospects are. The results are psychologically and emotionally devastating for over 65,000 students every year.

The DREAM Act would grant undocumented immigrants a six-year grace period during which these students could pursue a college degree or military service. They would be eligible for student loans and work study, alleviating much of the financial burden of higher education. Afterwards, they would be granted a legal permanent residency allowing them to pursue citizenship in the United States. Education is a long-term investment and a powerful weapon in the battle against poverty and ignorance. Let us alleviate the burden imposed under the current law by making higher education accessible to immigrants who take great pride in calling this country their home.

Thank you for your leadership on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Lawrence S. Bacow
President