



NEWS RELEASE
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LATINO LEADERS DEMAND FINAL PASSAGE THIS WEEK OF 10 YEAR OLD DREAM ACT LEGISLATION

*After Many Difficult Concessions Made to Gain Support, Majority Leader Files Cloture, Latino Community Urges
Bipartisan Support and Passage*

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of nation's most influential civil rights and advocacy organizations, embraced the actions of Majority Leader Reid last night in moving the DREAM Act one step closer to a final vote by the Senate. NHLA now urges that Senators from both sides of the aisle honor the bipartisan history of this almost 10-year-old bill, which provides hardworking and patriotic immigrants the opportunity to fulfill their dreams in serving our nation.

This version of the DREAM Act is a far cry from what was first offered in 2001 by Senators Durbin and Lugar. Regardless of some of the difficult concessions that were made, the time has come to move this legislation forward and provide thousands of young students across the nation a path to improve their lives as well as contribute to our nation. Congress must not continue to shy away from this great responsibility of shaping our future, strengthening our security, and according to a recent independent report, providing economic stability.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report last week that confirms that the DREAM Act would help the economy of our country. The CBO estimates that at a minimum the DREAM Act will create \$2.3 billion in revenues over the next ten years. In addition, the CBO report found that enacting the DREAM Act would drastically reduce the deficit by \$1.4 billion. "The time for excuses is over. This bill is a net positive economically for our country. The bill strengthens our national defense posture and encourages educational excellence. Changes have been made to accommodate every hurdle placed in front of the bill's passage. It is time for both parties to exercise the level of leadership expected of them and work together to pass this important piece of legislation" stated Lillian Rodríguez-López, Chair of the NHLA.

Congress must pass the DREAM Act this week. Keeping this academically gifted, motivated and patriotic segment of our population in the U.S. is a tenet of our American values. As a community we have never doubted the benefits that these students will provide all Americans; we have always known that these students will contribute to the success, financial future and national defense of our country.

*Established in 1991, **The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)** brings together Hispanic leaders to establish policy priorities that address, and raise public awareness of the major issues affecting the Latino community and the nation as a whole. For more information, please visit www.nationalhispanicleadership.org.*

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