

November 30, 2010

Member  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re:    *National School Boards Association (NSBA) Support for the  
Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2009  
(S. 729)***

Dear Senator:

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing over 95,000 local school board members through our state associations across the nation, urges you to vote for the *Development, Relief, and Education for Minors (DREAM) Act*, S. 729, tentatively scheduled to come to a floor vote prior to adjournment of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

As you are aware, the DREAM Act, introduced by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Richard Lugar (R-IN), could enable undocumented students who were enrolled in our public schools for at least five years immediately preceding passage of this legislation and who have earned a high school diploma or equivalent diploma to be enrolled in our colleges and universities at the in-state tuition cost. While the DREAM Act would not mandate states to provide in-state tuition to undocumented students, it would allow states to determine whether or not immigration status should be a factor for in-state tuition eligibility purposes.

Local school board support for this legislation is related to the need to increase the number of highly qualified teachers and principals of diverse backgrounds, and the existing requirement for all public schools to educate students regardless of their citizenship. Enactment of the *DREAM Act* would foster greater diversity among our highly effective teachers, principals and other school personnel.

Further, local school board members believe that this legislation would support not only greater numbers of subject-matter experts in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, enactment is also likely to enhance the numbers of highly qualified personnel to be able to address emerging cultural and ethnic differences as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and support. Questions concerning our position may be directed to Reginald M. Felton, director of federal relations, at 703-838-6782; or by e-mail, [rfelton@nsba.org](mailto:rfelton@nsba.org).

Sincerely,



Michael A. Resnick  
Associate Executive Director

MAR: rf/kc

G:\Adv\Hill\Letters\2010\11.30.10DREAMActSupportLtrtoSenate



*Working with and  
Through our State  
Associations, NSBA  
Advocates for Equity  
and Excellence in  
Public Education  
through School  
Board Leadership*

---

**Office of Advocacy**

- *Earl C. Rickman, III*  
*President*
- *Anne L. Bryant*  
*Executive Director*
- *Michael A. Resnick*  
*Associate*  
*Executive Director*