June 15, 2010

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

I write on behalf of the Butler County Community College to urge you to cosponsor the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (S. 729).

The DREAM Act would do two things to make the future brighter for students who have worked hard, aspire to do more, and in whom the people of Pennsylvania have already invested a great deal of resources. First, the bill would return to the states the decision of whether to extend in-state tuition to undocumented students, where it should be. It does not require states to take any particular action in this area.

The DREAM Act would also establish a six-year conditional permanent residency status for students that were brought to this country before the age of 16, have been here at least five years as of the date the law is enacted, and graduated from a U.S. high school. DREAM-eligible individuals may qualify for permanent residency after six years, and be put on the path to citizenship, by completing at least two years of higher education or military service.

As such, the bill is designed to focus on the special case of undocumented young people that came to this country through no fault of their own, many of whom have no ties to or even memories of the countries from which they came. They consider themselves as American as their classmates, and in most ways they are. We do not traditionally punish people for the actions of others, and the DREAM Act seeks to remedy one situation in which we are doing just that.

As educators, we also view the DREAM Act is also an important tool for achieving our national goal of returning the United States to world leadership in higher education attainment. Community colleges have been called upon by President Obama and others to play a key role in this daunting challenge. It has been estimated that 65,000 DREAM-eligible students graduate from American high schools each year. These students often have to overcome significant barriers to graduate from high school, and we cannot afford to stymie their aspirations to continue their education and contribute to our economy and society.
Congress must pass the DREAM Act this year – we are losing too many future nurses, technicians, inventors and entrepreneurs without it. The first step to passing this bill is for as many senators as possible to sign on as cosponsors of S. 729. I urge you to take that step as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Nicholas C. Neupauer
President
June 15, 2010

The Honorable Robert Casey  
United States Senate  
383 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of Montgomery County Community College, I am writing to urge you to cosponsor the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (S.729).

The DREAM Act would provide students with an opportunity to return some of the resource investment made by the citizens of Pennsylvania. The bill would return the decision to our state of whether or not to extend in-state tuition to undocumented students. It would not require states to take any specific action in this area. The Act would also establish a six-year conditional permanent residency status for students that were brought to the country before the age of 16, have been here at least five years as of the date the law is enacted, and graduate from a United States high school. DREAM eligible individuals may qualify for permanent residency after six years, and be put on the path to citizenship, by completing at least two years of higher education or military service.

As such, the bill is designed to focus on the special case of undocumented students that came to this country through no fault of their own, many of whom have no ties to or even memories of the countries from which they came. They consider themselves as American as their class mates, and in most ways they are. They desire access to higher education that can ultimately lead them to become successful and productive citizens. It has been estimated that 65,000 DREAM eligible students graduate from American high schools each year. These students often have to overcome significant barriers to graduate from high school, and we cannot afford to further impede their attainment of education.

Montgomery County Community College views the DREAM Act as an important tool for achieving the national goal of returning the United States to world leadership in the attainment of higher education. Community colleges have been called upon by President Obama and others to play a key role in achieving this goal.

Congress must pass the Dream Act this year. We are losing too many future nurses, technicians, inventors and entrepreneurs without it. I respectfully request you take the first step towards passing this bill by signing as a cosponsor of S. 729.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Stout  
President

215-641-8500  
215-641-8647 (Fax)

340 DeKalb Pike  
Blue Bell, PA 19422

101 College Drive  
Pottstown, PA 19464

www.mc3.edu
July 28, 2010

The Honorable Robert Casey
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), I write to urge you to cosponsor the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (S. 729).

The DREAM Act would accomplish several critical goals for Pennsylvania and for the nation. Most important, it gives students an opportunity to continue their education and subsequently return this investment to the Commonwealth by becoming productive, tax-paying citizens. States would be given the choice of extending in-state tuition rates to students who were brought to the United States before the age of 16 and who have been in the United States for at least five years as of the date of the law, and who have graduated from a high school in the United States. No specific action on the part of states would be required.

The DREAM Act also provides a six-year conditional permanent residence status for these students. They may qualify for permanent residency by completing at least two years of higher education or military service. These opportunities would assure that we retain these students after investing heavily in them.

The importance of the DREAM Act is that it focuses on the special case of undocumented children who were brought to the United States by family members or others. Their status is through no fault or deliberate action of their own. Our tradition in this country is to not punish children for the actions of others. Let us give them an opportunity to excel and to do the right thing by providing a pathway to education and citizenship.

PASSHE sees the DREAM Act as a way to help us fulfill our mission of providing access to higher education for the Commonwealth. Let us ensure that Pennsylvania has every opportunity to retain its talent. We have already invested heavily in these students. Let us help them finish what we have started so that they can become successful members of the Commonwealth.
Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John C. Cavanaugh, Ph.D.
Chancellor

C: Honorable Arlen Specter
May 3, 2010

TO:
Senator Robert Casey
Senator Arlen Specter
Representative Joseph Sestak

I write to urge your support of the Development, Relief and Education Minors Act (DREAM) Act, most recently introduced on March 26, 2009 in the Senate. The DREAM Act permits undocumented immigrant students who came into the country before they were 16 to enter college and the military and to qualify for low interest student loans and federal work-study opportunities.

Right now these young people have no legal rights, although they did not enter the United States by their own choosing. They came into this country with parents or guardians while still minors and many now find themselves in the difficult position of struggling to pursue a college degree after graduating from high school because they do not have the financial means to do so. If they want to give back to this country through military service they are forbidden from doing so. If they wish to pursue federal work-study opportunities they are forbidden from doing so. This bill’s intention is to provide them with the opportunity to pursue higher education, to reward them for their hard work and contributions to society, and to ensure that no child in America is denied their dream of a better life if they are willing to work for it.

The DREAM Act provides a “conditional residency” status to undocumented immigrants who are high school graduates and have lived in this country for at least five years. During the conditional residency period they must either complete an associate’s degree at a two-year institution, a bachelor’s degree at a four-year institution, or complete two years of military service. Upon fulfilling any one of these three conditions, the student will then be able to petition to become a U.S. citizen.

In addition to the moral imperative to help all deserving young people reach their fullest potential, the bill offers a practical benefit. The DREAM Act extends our country’s investment in these young people since they have already received their primary and secondary education through our public schools. Likely outcomes of its enactment include decreased high school drop-out rates and increased revenues from taxes paid by a more educated immigrant population.
Our country has long held that those willing to work hard and give back to their community should be afforded the opportunity to pursue their dreams. As a campus community we are committed to the same principles. The DREAM Act conjoins our national and educational goals to benefit a segment of our population that can contribute significantly to this country’s future. I am pleased to offer Swarthmore’s support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Chopp
President
Resolution

Recognizing and Honoring the 2009 Federal DREAM Act for the Support it Provides to The Nation’s Student Immigrant Community.

Title: Temple University Students Support the 2009 Federal DREAM Act
Author: Daniel P Dunphy
Sponsors: Temple College Democrats

WHEREAS, Temple University seeks to provide a quality education to all current and future students; and

WHEREAS, Universities and Institutions of Higher Learning within Philadelphia strive to make Higher Education accessible to all who merit and desire an academic collegiate experience; and

WHEREAS, The students and communities of Temple University and The City of Philadelphia benefit from providing a quality education to the Student Immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, Every year over 65,000 high school students nationwide are unable to access collegiate education either due to the legal status of their parents or guardians, or due to the financial barriers that exist around higher education; and

WHEREAS, The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act would provide high-achieving high school students who are undocumented, and who wish to either serve The United States of America in the armed forces, or improve their quality of life through college education, a temporary legal status to achieve those goals; and

WHEREAS, The opportunity for all Philadelphia high school students to attend Institutions of Higher Education is of paramount importance to the success of The City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and The United States of America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT, The Students of Temple University support the 2009 Federal Dream Act, and continuously support all students who struggle to achieve the dream of higher education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be respectfully forwarded to Ann Weaver Hart, President of Temple University, Theresa A. Powell, Vice President of Campus Life and University Relations, Ainsley Corry, Dean of Students; and The Temple News, the student newspaper of Temple University.