

Pro-DREAM Activity Shows That the Immigration Movement Is Stronger Than Ever

DECEMBER 15, 2010

The Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is a bill that would give undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children a path toward legal status if they attend college or serve in the military. In anticipation of Senate action on the DREAM Act, the pro-reform advocacy community galvanized tremendous support from diverse allies and made it clear that the pro-immigration movement is stronger than ever. Below is a sampling of key activities on the DREAM Act that took place between **September 13 and December 13, 2010**, most of them occurring before the historic House vote in favor of DREAM on December 8, 2010.

- Together, pro-migrant groups generated over **850,000 calls, emails, and faxes** in support of the DREAM Act to Congress.
- Over **81,000 Dream Act petitions** collected by America's Voice, Asian American Justice Center, Presente.org, Change.org, League of United Latin American Citizens, Reform Immigration for America, Sojourners, NCLR, Justice for Immigrants, Sisters of Mercy, CREDO Mobile, and United We Dream/DREAM Activist and delivered to target Senate offices.
- A sign-on letter from **109 national organizations** and **202 organizations** representing **42 states**.
- **40 press conferences** in **32 states**, and over **100 Spanish language TV and radio stations** advocating for people to call their Senator on DREAM.
- Over **60 editorials** this year, including 48 since September 14 in publications including the New York Times, the Washington Post, La Opinión, and El Diaro - La Presna NY.
- **Radio ads in 5 states and 9 cities.** America's Voice, SEIU, Reform Immigration for America, AFL-CIO, and the Campaign for Community Change sponsored a *six-figure Spanish and English ad campaign in five states* (Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, Nevada, and Texas); and America's Voice, SEIU, and Mi Familia Vota Civic Participation Campaign sponsored *six-figure Spanish radio ad campaign in nine cities* (Denver, Phoenix, Tucson, Miami, Orlando, Chicago, Las Vegas, Houston, McAllen).
- **Conservatives**, including Michael Gerson; Linda Chavez; Jeb Bush; Conservatives for Comprehensive Immigration Reform; Mike Huckabee, former Governor of Arkansas; Carlos Gutierrez, former Secretary of Commerce; and a blog from the Cato Institute.
- **The military**, including Robert Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense; Clifford Stanley, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Ashwin Madia, interim Chairman of VoteVets.org; Colin Powell, former Secretary of State; Louis Caldera, former Director of the White House Military



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Office and United States Secretary of the Army; Senator Inouye; and the creation of the student website, “Let Us Serve.”

- **Business**, including Microsoft; Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and CEO, News Corporation; Kenneth I. Chenault, Chairman and CEO, American Express Company; Terry J. Lundgren, Chairman, President, and CEO, Macy’s, Inc.; the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Greater Houston Partnership; Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; and ImmigrationWorks USA.
- **Educators**, including Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education; the National Education Association; the National School Board Association; Drew Faust and John Hennessy, Harvard and Stanford Presidents; over 300 immigration scholars; and over 120 university presidents and higher education associations.
- **State and local elected officials**, including the National Conference of State Legislators; the U.S. Conference of Mayors; Michael Bloomberg, New York City Mayor; Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles Mayor; Michael Nutter, Philadelphia Mayor; John Marks, Tallahassee Mayor; Abel Maldonado, California Lieutenant Governor; Larry Gilbert, Lewiston, Maine Mayor; Juan Zapata, Florida State Representative; and Sylvia Garcia, Harris County, Texas Commissioner.
- **Administration** officials, including Robert Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense; Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education; Janet Napolitano, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security; Hilda Solis, U.S. Secretary of Labor; and Gary Locke, U.S. Secretary of Commerce.
- **Congressional caucuses**, including the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Progressive Caucus, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus.
- **Child advocacy groups**, including the First Focus Campaign for Children and Voices for Utah’s Children.
- **Faith communities**, including the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, the American Jewish community, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Church World Service, Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, United Methodist Church, and the Episcopal Church.
- **Civil rights organizations**, including the ACLU, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCR); and **women’s organizations**, including Legal Momentum, Moms Rising and the National Association of Working Women.
- **Unions**, including AFL-CIO, SEIU, and the American Federation of Teachers.

For more information on the DREAM Act, see <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/index.htm>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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