

PASS THE DREAM ACT: It's About Being Fair, a Core American Value.

The DREAM Act is bipartisan legislation pending in Congress to clear up the immigration status issues and address federal barriers to education and work confronted by the U.S.-raised children of undocumented immigrants.

Under current law, 50-65,000 students graduate from American high schools each year who have been in the U.S. more than five years but who face limited prospects for completing their education or working legally in the United States because they were originally brought here by parents lacking immigration status. Among those prevented from completing their education are valedictorians, honors students, award winners, class presidents, and student leaders.

These young people deserve a fresh start, both in fairness to them and in our national interest. The DREAM Act would address this issue in two ways:

- by deleting a federal provision that interferes with a state's right to determine which students qualify as "residents" for purposes of in-state tuition or other state education benefits; and
- by providing a mechanism for certain long-term resident immigrant students with good moral character to apply for legal residency so that they can work and otherwise fully participate in their communities.

Positive fiscal impact: The DREAM Act would dramatically reduce dropout rates, with resulting substantial savings in criminal justice costs and use of public benefits, and it would sharply increase the amount of taxes paid by those who qualify.

Fairness: The DREAM Act is a recognition of the fact that the young people at issue did not have a say in the decision to come to the U.S., and it is wrong to hold them fully liable for an immigration status that was derived from their parents.

A resource: A disproportionate number of DREAM Act young people have excelled in our schools, and they are poised to repay our investment in their elementary and secondary education. They are a willing and ready American-educated workforce, many of whom want desperately to give back to their communities.

CALL SENATOR FRIST:

1 - 8 0 0 - 3 6 9 - 0 3 1 5

For more information, see the websites below:

<http://ga1.org/campaign/DREAM2003/explanation>

<http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/dreamact/explanation>

Immigrants Helped Build This Country.

Immigrants Are Not Terrorists.

Their Labor is at the Foundation of Our Wealth.

