

April 10, 2003

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch and Senator Durbin:

Representing a broad alliance of educators, businesses, labor groups, civil rights organizations, faith-based groups, children and youth groups, and various community-based organizations from across the country, we write to express our strong support for the “DREAM Act.” You introduced this important legislation in the 107th Congress to address the federal barriers to education and work confronted by the U.S.-raised children of immigrants lacking immigration status, as well as the challenges that such students face in adjusting their immigration status. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to the upcoming reintroduction of this critical legislation.

As educators, potential employers, and advocates of these students, we believe that the “DREAM Act” is the right thing to do, both for the young people whose lives are in the balance and for the rest of us.

- The “DREAM Act” appropriately recognizes that these young people have done nothing wrong. Despite the pressures to do otherwise, these students have stayed in school and out of trouble.
- This important legislation acknowledges that these students will be better prepared and able to contribute to our joint future if they are permitted to complete their education and work legally. In turn, our local, state, and national economy will benefit from their increased contributions into our tax and social insurance system, as will all of us who come into contact with these young people in years to come: the children they teach, the patients they care for, the businesses that employ them, the communities they lead, and others.

A particularly important feature of the “DREAM Act” is that it would provide permanent, rather than temporary, immigration relief, so that we, as educators, prospective employers, and members of their community, can invest in their future with confidence.

It is urgent that this legislation be enacted as soon as possible. With every passing year, our local communities and our entire nation risk losing out on talented students who are among our best and brightest. They are a resource that has gone untapped far too long and their years are not replaceable. These students need relief now.

We, therefore, want to thank you once again for your efforts on behalf of these students, and we urge you to move as rapidly as possible towards enactment of this legislation. The realization of these students' dreams and the prosperity of our nation depend on it.

On behalf of:

National Organizations

ACORN

Alliance of Iranian Americans

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees

American Friends Service Committee

American Immigration Lawyer's Association (AILA)

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Arab American Institute (ARI)

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)

ASPIRA

Bert Corona Leadership Institute

Campaign for Labor Rights

Catholic Charities USA

Center for Law and Education

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)

Cuban American National Council

Episcopal Migration Ministries

ESCORT

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc.

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia

Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA)

Immigrant and Refugee Services of America

Jobs with Justice

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Migrant Legal Action Program (MLAP)

National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC)

National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)

National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC)

National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME)

National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support/Center for Community Change
National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry (NCADDHM)
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Coalition for Haitian Rights (NCHR)
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project (NELP)
National Grassroots Legalization Collaborative
National HEP-CAMP Association
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Latino Children's Institute
National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Association
National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)
National Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)
National Peoples' Action (NPA)
National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc.
NETWORK, a Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Presbyterian Church, USA
Pride at Work, AFL-CIO
Salvadoran American National Network (SANN)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC)
Union of Needletrades, Industrial, & Textile Employees (UNITE)
United Church of Christ and Witness Ministries
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
United Students Against Sweatshops
US Committee for Refugees
USAction
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

State and Local Organizations

En Espanol, Birmingham, AL
Alianza Indigena Sin Fronteras, Tucson, AZ
Arizona Hispanic Administrator's Association, Chandler, AZ
Citizens for Border Solutions, Bisbee, AZ
Coalicion de Derechos Humanos, Tucson, AZ
El Centro for the Study of Secondary and Primary Education, Tucson, AZ
Friendly House, Phoenix, AZ
Fundacion Mexico (FM), Tucson, AZ

Luz Social Services, Inc., Tucson, AZ
Nahuacalli-Tonatierra, Phoenix, AZ
SNF Healing Our Borders, Douglas, AZ
Southwest Center for Education Equity and Language Diversity-Arizona State University,
Tempe, AZ
Tempe Hispanic Forum, Tempe, AZ
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Art, Research, and Curriculum (ARC) Associates - Southern California, Whittier, AZ
Asian Law Alliance, San Jose, CA
Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Berkeley Student Peace Action Network, Berkeley, CA
Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, Saticoy, CA
California Association for Bilingual Education, Covina, CA
Californians for Justice, Oakland, CA
CAMINOS/Pathways Learning Center, San Francisco, CA
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA
Catholic Charities of the Santa Rosa Diocese, Santa Rosa, CA
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Los Angeles, CA
Centro Legal De La Raza, Oakland, CA
Citizenship Project, Salinas, CA
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), Los Angeles, CA
Comité de Padres Unidos, San Francisco, CA
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, San Rafael, CA
Escuela de la Raza Unida, Inc., Blythe, CA
Foro Latino, Mammoth Lakes, CA
Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional (FIOB), Fresno, CA
Garibay Tax Service, Santa Ana, CA
Garment Worker Center, Los Angeles, CA
Hesperian Foundation, Berkeley, CA
Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, San Francisco, CA
Interfaith Shelter Network, San Diego, CA
International Institute of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
International Institute of the East Bay, Oakland, CA
Korean Resource Center, Los Angeles, CA
La Raza Centro Legal-San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Latino Student Union, Inglewood, CA
Law Office of Malathi Benjamin, Pasadena, CA
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, San Francisco, CA
Leticia A. Network (of California), Los Angeles, CA
Los Hermanos de Stanford, Stanford, CA
Monterrey Bay Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, Salinas, CA
Multicultural Education, Training, and Advocacy (META), San Francisco, CA
New Citizen, Salinas, CA
Northern California AILA Chapter, San Francisco, CA
Northern California Citizenship Project, San Francisco, CA

OLA RAZA, Inc., Porterville, CA
People United for the Legislation of Students (PULS-Bay Area), Oakland, CA
Religion and Immigration Project of the University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Santa Clara Valley AILA Chapter, San Francisco, CA
Santa Cruz County Immigration Project (SCCIP), Watsonville, CA
Southern California AILA Chapter, Los Angeles, CA
Southern California Immigration Center, Downey, CA
University Migrant Services, California State University, Fresno, CA
Unity Council, Oakland, CA
Amistad DREAM Coalition, Boulder, CO
Colorado AILA Chapter, Denver, CO
Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, Denver, CO
Colorado I Have A Dream Foundation, Denver, CO
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, Boulder, CO
Colorado Progressive Coalition, Denver, CO
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, Westminster, CO
Del Norte Neighborhood Development Corp., Denver, CO
Fuerza Latina, Fort Collins, CO
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, Denver, CO
Rights for All People, Denver, CO
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Boulder, CO
Students 4 Justice, Denver, CO
Connecticut AILA Chapter, Hartford, CT
Connecticut Immigrant & Refugee Coalition, Hartford, CT
Latin American Student Organization at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan (MEChA) de Yale, New Haven, CT
Polish American Congress (of Connecticut), New Britain, CT
Yale Women's Center Political Action Committee-Yale University, New Haven, CT
Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc., DC
Carlos Rosario International Career Center & Public Charter School, DC
Latin American Youth Center in Washington, DC (LAYC), DC
La Esperanza Community Center, Georgetown, DE
AILA Central Florida Chapter, Tampa, FL
Bilingual Association of Florida, Miami, FL
Caribbean Bar Association, Miami, FL
Caridad Health Clinic, Boynton Beach, FL
CASA-Colombian American Service Association, Inc., Miami, FL
Central Florida AILA Chapter, St. Petersburg, FL
ENLACE of Hillsborough, Tampa, FL
Farmworker Coordinating Council for Palm Beach County, Inc., Lake Worth, FL
Florida Caribbean Students Association, Miami, FL
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Miami, FL
Haitian Women of Miami, Miami, FL
Haitian-American Youth of Tomorrow (HAYOT), Miami, FL
HOPE Outreach Center Inc., Davie, FL
Humphrey & Whidden Insurance Agency, Inc., Fort Meyers, FL

Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Orlando, FL
Mayors Hispanic Advisory Council, Tampa, FL
Migrant Association of South Florida, Boynton Beach, FL
Minority Development & Empowerment, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL
Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Immokalee, FL
Rural Women's Health Project, Gainesville, FL
Service Employees International Union, Miami, FL
Hispanic Jewish Committee of Palm Beach County, Boca Raton, FL
Unite for Dignity for Immigrant Workers Rights, Inc., Miami, FL
Atlanta AILA Chapter, Atlanta, GA
Catholic Social Services, Inc. of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, Gainesville, GA
Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GHCC), Atlanta, GA
Georgia Hispanic Network, Inc. (GHNet), Atlanta, GA
Georgia Rural Urban Summit, Decatur, GA
Haitian American Community Service (HACOS) of Atlanta, College Park, GA
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines, Des Moines, IA
Diversity Service Center of Iowa (DSCI), Muscatine, IA
Hispanic Ministry of St. Mary Catholic Church, Marshalltown, IA
Iowa Immigrant Rights Project, Des Moines, IA
Latino Community Advisory Committee DMPS, Des Moines, IA
Latinos Unidos Creando Comunidades de Iowa, Marshalltown, IA
Partners in Economic Progress, Des Moines, IA
Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Waterloo, IA
Southwest Iowa Latino Resource Center, Red Oak, IA
Idaho Association for Bilingual Education, Caldwell, ID
Idaho Community Action Network, Boise, ID
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council-Chicago, Chicago, IL
Coalition of Asian, African, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAELII), Chicago, IL
Concilio Hispano, Chicago, IL
Heartland Alliance, Chicago, IL
Illinois Association for Multicultural/Multilingual Education, Highland Park, IL
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Chicago, IL
Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bilingual Education (ITBE), Niles, IL
Independent Monitoring Board, Chicago, IL
Korean American Human Service Coalition in Chicago (KAHSC), Chicago, IL
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC), Chicago, IL
Lutheran Advocacy Network/Illinois, Des Plaines, IL
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Des Plaines, IL
Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center (MIHRC), Chicago, IL
Organization of the NorthEast, Chicago, IL
West Town Leadership United, Chicago, IL
Indiana AILA Chapter, Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling, Greencastle, IN
Minority Health Coalition of Allen County of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN

United Hispanic-Americans, Inc., Fort Wayne, IN
El Centro, Inc., Kansas City, KS
Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs, Topeka, KS
Hispanic Association, Lexington, KY
Amherst College Chicana/o Caucus, Amherst, MA
Brazilian Immigrant Center, Allston, MA
Brazilian Resource and Services Network, Framingham, MA
Brazilian Women's Group, Somerville, MA
Concilio Hispano, Inc., Cambridge, MA
East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC), East Boston, MA
Excellentia 2000 Foundation, Inc. (E2F), Cambridge, MA
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement - Massachusetts Chapter, Brighton, MA
Latin American Health Institute, Boston, MA
Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages, Brockton, MA
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Boston, MA
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston, MA
Northeast AILA Chapter, Jamaica Plain, MA
CASA of Maryland, Tacoma Park, MD
Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, Columbia, MD
Centro Familia, Silver Spring, MD
Hispanic Alliance of Montgomery County, Chevy Chase, MD
Lahore Foundation, Inc., Rockville, MD
Maryland Latino Coalition for Justice, Tacoma Park, MD
Public Justice Center, Baltimore, MD
Michigan Organizing Project, Muskegon, MI
Access to Higher Education Coalition of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Admission Possible, St. Paul, MN
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, Little Falls, MN
Hispanic Ministry Leadership Team, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
Institute for New Americans, Minneapolis, MN
La Escuelita, Minneapolis, MN
Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC), West St. Paul, MN
Project SUCCESS, Minneapolis, MN
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, St. Paul, MN
Missouri/Kansas AILA Chapter, St. Louis, MO
Missouri In-State Tuition Group, Kansas City, MO
Westside Housing Organization, Kansas City, MO
Amigos Internacional, Wilmington, NC
Center for New North Carolinians-University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC
Center for Participatory Change, Asheville, NC
El Centro Hispano, Durham, NC
El Pueblo, Inc., Raleigh, NC
Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, Newton Grove, NC
Hispanic Center of Catholic Services, High Point, NC
Hispanic Outreach Task Force, Charlotte, NC

Hispanic/Latino Center, Inc., Fayetteville, NC
Latino Community Development Center, Durham, NC
North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals, Cary, NC
Northwest Regional Service Alliance (NWRESA), Wilkesboro, NC
Peace and Justice Mission Group at the Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa-Nebraska, Omaha, NE
Integration Task Force for the City of Norfolk, Norfolk, NE
Iowa/Nebraska AILA Chapter, Omaha, NE
Catholic Community Services, Newark, NJ
Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
International Institute of New Jersey, Jersey City, NJ
Jubilee Interfaith Organization (JIO), Jersey City, NJ
Latin American Task Force, Princeton, NJ
Manavi, Inc., New Brunswick, NJ
MAYFLOWER, Princeton, NJ
New Jersey AILA Chapter, Burlington, NJ
New Jersey Catholic Conference, Trenton, NJ
New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, Newark, NJ
New Jersey Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages/New Jersey Bilingual Educators, Inc. (NJTESOL/NJBE, Inc.), Jersey City, NJ
Philadelphia AILA Chapter, Woodbury, NJ
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey, Inc. (SPAN), Newark, NJ
Wind of the Spirit (Viento del Espiritu) Immigrant Resource Center, Morristown, NJ
New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education, Las Cruces, NM
Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Santa Fe, NM
Womens Intercultural Center, Las Cruces, NM
CREATIVE COMBUSTION, Sparks, NV
Miguel Sepulveda Spanish Theater Company, Sparks, NV
Nevada Hispanic Services, Inc., Reno, NV
Sierra Counseling Center, Sparks, NV
Student Organization of Latinos (SOL), Las Vegas, NV
Acción Latina, Inc., Corona, NY
Alianza Dominicana, Inc., New York, NY
Asian Americans for Equality, New York, NY
Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS) - New York, New York, NY
Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS) - Dobbs Ferry, Dobbs Ferry, NY
Campus Action, Albany, NY
Capital District (NY) Labor-Religion Coalition, Albany, NY
Caribbean Women's Health Association, Inc., Brooklyn, NY
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, New York, NY
Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants (CHRI), New York, NY
Cornell MEChA, Ithaca, NY
El Mexicano Estudiantial Chicano/Chicana de Aztlan (MEChA) de Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Farmworker Advocacy Coalition, Poughkeepsie, NY
Farmworker Legal Aid, Rochester, NY

Farmworkers Legal Services of New York, Inc., New Paltz, NY
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition, New York, NY
Harlem United's Bondala Initiative, New York, NY
Human Rights Activist Project of Global Kids, Inc., New York, NY
Immigration Advocacy Services, Astoria, NY
International Center of the Capital Region, Inc., Albany, NY
Jewish Labor Committee, New York, NY
Latin American Integration Center (LAIC), Woodside, NY
Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Outreach Program, New Paltz, NY
Migrant Education and Outreach Program, East Bloomfield, NY
New Immigrant Community Empowerment, Inc. (NICE), New York, NY
New York AILA Chapter, New York, NY
New York Immigration Coalition, New York, NY
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), New York, NY
New York State Association for Bilingual Education, Buffalo, NY
Rural and Migrant Ministry (RMM), Poughkeepsie, NY
Rushville Migrant Health Clinic, Rushville, NY
Safe Horizon, New York, NY
Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach, Inc., Brooklyn, NY
South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!), Elmhurst, NY
Spanish Action League of Onondago County, Inc., Syracuse, NY
The Door: A Center of Alternatives, New York, NY
United Tenants of Albany, Albany, NY
Young Korean-American Service & Education Center, Inc. (YKASEC), Flushing, NY
Youth Empowerment Activists (YEA!), Woodside, NY
Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Toledo, OH
Amnesty International of University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
American Friends Service Committee, Portland Area Program Office, Portland, OR
CASA of Oregon, Newberg, OR
CAUSA, Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition, Salem, OR
Community Alliance of Lane County, Eugene, OR
Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS), Salem, OR
Network for Immigrant Justice, Eugene, OR
Oregon Action, Portland, OR
Oregon Association for Bilingual Education, Salem, OR
Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement, Portland, OR
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Woodburn, OR
Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality, Salem, OR
Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Harrisburg, PA
New England Association for College Admission Counseling, Smithfield, RI
Office of Community Services, Diocese of Providence (RI), Providence, RI
Rhode Island Coalition for Immigrants and Refugees, Providence, RI
HABLA Project, Columbia, SC
Conexion Americas, Nashville, TN
MidSouth AILA Chapter, Chattanooga, TN

Tennessee Immigrant Rights Coalition, Memphis, TN
Tennessee Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Mt. Juliet, TN
Warren County (TN) School System, McMinnville, TN
Action NOW, El Paso, TX
Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA), Houston, TX
BESO of the University of St. Thomas Chapter, Houston, TX
Bilingual/ESL Education Association of the Metroplex (BEAM), Arlington, TX
Border Association for Refugees from Central American, Inc., Edinburg, TX
Casa de Proyecto Libertad, Harlingen, TX
Centro Comunitario Mexicano, Dallas, TX
Coalition of Higher Education for Immigrant Students, Houston, TX
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Fort Worth, TX
Gulfton Area Neighborhood Center & The Central America Refugee Center (GANO-CARECEN), Houston, TX
Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association at the-University of Texas, Austin, TX
Jovenes Immigrantes por un Futuro Mejor (JIFM), Houston, TX
Justicia Serafin Olvera, Houston, TX
Movimiento Estudiantil Xicana/o de Aztlan (MEXA) de la Universidad de Houston, Houston, TX
Proyecto Digna, Inc., Brownsville, TX
San Felipe de Jesus Catholic Church, San Felipe, TX
South Texas Immigration Council, Inc., Harlingen, TX
Texas AILA Chapter, Austin, TX
Texas Association for Bilingual Education, San Antonio, TX
Amigos Unidos, Park City, UT
Central Utah Federation of Labor, Salt Lake City, UT
National Honor Society-Park City Chapter, Park City, UT
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Dustin W. Dyer, Esq. & McDonald Dyer, P.C.-Attorneys & Counselors at Law, Richmond, VA
Hispanic Committee of Virginia, Falls Church, VA
Immigrant Educational Rights Coalition, Arlington, VA
LULAC of Virginia, Arlington, VA
Tahirih Justice Center, Falls Church, VA
Virginia Association for Bilingual Education, Fairfax, VA
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Richmond, VA
D.C. AILA Chapter, Tysons Corner, VA
American Friends Service Committee, Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle, WA
CASA Latina, Seattle, WA
El Centro de la Raza, Seattle, WA
King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Seattle, WA
Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP), Seattle, WA
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA
Washington Citizen Action, Seattle, WA
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Seattle, WA
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay, Greenbay, WI
Connecting Cultures, Little Chute, WI

Latinos United for Change and Advancement (LUChA), Madison, WI

South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Madison, WI

Voces de la Frontera: Workers' Center, Milwaukee, WI

Wisconsin AILA Chapter, Milwaukee, WI

Wisconsin Association for Bilingual Education, Milwaukee, WI

Wisconsin Legalization Coalition, Milwaukee, WI

Wisconsin Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (WITESOL), Milwaukee, WI