



★ FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ★

December 1, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), I write to express our support for bringing S. 3992, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act to the Senate floor and to urge its passage. NASFAA represents more than 18,000 financial aid professionals who serve 16 million students each year at 2,800 colleges and universities throughout the country. Our members will have the opportunity to directly serve the many students who will benefit from this legislation.

The DREAM Act will afford undocumented students the opportunity to become educated and productive members of our society. Nearly all of these students are in the United States due to a choice made by their parents, rather than their own. DREAM provides a fair and reasonable gateway to U.S. citizenship for these students through a ten-year conditional nonimmigrant status. This status is eligible to students who were brought to the United States before the age of 16, who will have been here at least five years as of the enactment date of the Act, and are under the age of 30. They must have also graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a GED credential, in addition to other requirements. Once these students complete at least two years of military service or two years of higher education they may then qualify for permanent residence status.

Importantly, DREAM also contributes to President Obama's goal of the United States having the world's highest proportion of college graduates by 2020, and to our nation's desire and imperative to be nationally competitive in an increasingly global economy. More broadly, there are innumerable societal benefits to providing productive opportunities for these students.

The DREAM Act represents sound public policy and an opportunity for thousands of talented undocumented students. We urge its passage in this final session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

Justin Draeger  
President and CEO

cc:

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
The Honorable Tom Harkin  
The Honorable Michael Enzi