

Statement of Support for the DREAM Act

Endorsed by NAPABA

April 2012

WHEREAS, the United States was founded by immigrants who have traveled from around the world to seek a better life;

WHEREAS, our nation's immigration system should uphold our basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness;

WHEREAS, the U.S. immigration system, which has torn apart families, created long backlogs for legal visas, and has produced an undocumented population of approximately twelve million immigrants, is broken and is in dire need of comprehensive reform;

WHEREAS, among the undocumented immigrants are hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the United States while they were children to be with their parents or other family or friends;

WHEREAS, many of these youths have excelled in school, worked hard to fund their studies and support their families, and become leaders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, each year approximately 65,000 U.S. raised students who would benefit from the DREAM Act graduate from high school;

WHEREAS, these youths are highly motivated to continue with their education (with many doing so despite being ineligible for federal financial aid or in-state tuition) or to serve our nation as members of the U.S. Armed Forces;

WHEREAS, despite their excellent academic records and contributions to the community, these youths are in constant fear of being identified, detained, and deported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, is a bipartisan proposal that would enable many of these students to earn legal status, continue with their educations, and pursue careers that would enable them to further contribute to the United States;

WHEREAS, students who meet the proposed criteria:

1. Have good moral character; and
2. Came to the United States at age 15 or younger; and

3. Have been physically present in the United States for at least five years before the date of the bill's enactment; and
4. Are younger than a specific age (proposals have been 35 and under, or 30 and under); Should be allowed to remain in the United States while the DREAM Act is under consideration, lest they lose their opportunity to ultimately gain legal status and pursue their education and life in the United States if they were deported;

WHEREAS, the fact that the Congress has failed to pass the DREAM Act this year has resulted in yet another class of outstanding, law-abiding high school students who will graduate without being able to plan for the future and risk being removed from their homes to countries they barely know.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NAPABA

1. Calls for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to halt the removal of all young immigrant students who would otherwise be eligible to gain legal status under the proposed DREAM Act.
2. Calls for Congress to enact the DREAM Act so that thousands of young people who qualify for legal status under the DREAM Act have the chance to fully integrate themselves into society and contribute to the success of the United States.
3. Authorizes its President, officers, and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other diverse bar associations, members of the House of Representatives, members of the U.S. Senate, the press, and to others the NAPABA Board deems suitable to receive the information.

I, the elected president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, hereby certify that this resolution was enacted by NAPABA on April 18, 2012.



Nimesh M. Patel
President