

HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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June 29, 2011

Via Facsimile

The Honorable Charles Schumer,
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees
and Border Security
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-228-3027

The Honorable John Cornyn,
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees
and Border Security
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-228-2856

Dear Senators Schumer and Cornyn:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”), we urge your support for the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (“DREAM Act”).

The DREAM Act would allow many undocumented students who entered the country as children and who are already in the United States for at least five years to obtain citizenship if they join the military or attend college for at least two years.

The need for the DREAM Act is significant. According to a July 2010 report from the National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, the Act, if passed, would immediately make 726,000 undocumented youths eligible for conditional legal status.¹ Specifically, with regard to states, California has the largest number of potential beneficiaries, with 553,000 or 26 percent, while the next state, Texas, has nearly half that amount with roughly 258,000 or 12 percent of possible beneficiaries. Florida, New York, and Arizona are the states of residence for another 21 percent of potential beneficiaries.²

In our increasingly competitive global economy, America will continue to need a highly educated workforce. And those who have a higher education, as many studies have shown, contribute more to our national tax base and to the growth of our economy. Thus, the DREAM

¹ See National Center on Immigration Integration Policy, DREAM vs. Reality: An Analysis of Potential DREAM Act Beneficiaries, July 2010, available at <http://www.migrationinformation.org/integration/education.cfm>.

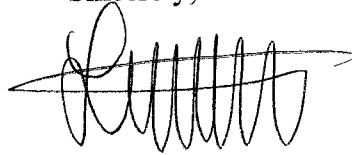
² *Id.*

Act is a natural engine of economic growth by equipping our future young citizens with the skills and knowledge to keep our country globally competitive.

Ultimately, supporting the DREAM Act is fundamentally the fair thing to do. Otherwise, as a nation, we punish thousands of promising young people who came to this country involuntarily as children. Yet, it is these children who stand ready to contribute to the fabric of our nation as educated, productive citizens if given that opportunity.

The HBA-DC exists in part to promote equal justice and opportunities for all Hispanics. We believe that the passage of the DREAM Act is a step in the right direction towards comprehensive immigration reform. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyzka P. DeLaCruz'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'L' and a series of vertical strokes for the rest of the name.

Lyzka P. DeLaCruz
President-Elect