

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. CP10-1085

Urging the 111th Congress of the United States of America to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act

Introduced by Councilman Paul D. López

WHEREAS, first introduced in 2001 by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), the DREAM Act is bipartisan federal legislation that benefits young people who were brought to the United States years ago as undocumented immigrant children through no fault of their own and who have since grown up in the United States, completed school, and now face obstacles to their futures; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 65,000 undocumented students who have lived in the United States for over five years graduate from U.S. high schools annually and could benefit from the act allowing them to pursue a promising future through college education or military service; and

WHEREAS, these talented, intelligent and dedicated young people having been raised and educated in the United States, already view themselves as Americans and have the same dreams, goals and aspirations as their classmates, yet are ineligible for federal financial aid and must pay out-of-state tuition at state universities despite their long-term residency; and

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act allows undocumented students who have lived in the United States for at least five years and who have graduated from high school or received a graduate equivalency diploma (GED) to earn legal status, making them eligible to pay taxes, qualifying them for Federal financial aid and in-state tuition at state universities and creating a path to earn U.S. citizenship; and

WHEREAS, through earned legalization by the DREAM Act, these students will continue to make vital contributions to the economic stability and cultural richness of the City & County of Denver, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America, yet without passage will remain vulnerable to a broken immigration system that promotes exploitation and that denies a path to earned legal status and meaningful access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, Colorado invests an estimated \$11,806 yearly for each of its public school students, an investment that is too often wasted when undocumented high school graduates are subsequently condemned to a life of exploitation, instability and unfulfilled educational potential ultimately precluding their full participation in Colorado's civic and economic life; and

WHEREAS, The central tenet of the DREAM Act – that minors of good character might earn legal status through education or military service--is also a positive investment in the future workforce of America - helping the United States of America to remain competitive in a global economy.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver hereby urges the 111th Congress of the United States of America to vote yes to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to Colorado's Congressional Delegation: Sen. Mark Udall, Sen. Michael Bennett, Rep. Diana DeGette, Rep. Jared Polis, Rep. Ed Perlmutter, Rep. Cory Gardner, Rep. Scott Tipton, Rep. Mike Coffman, Rep. Doug Lamborn, and President Barack H. Obama.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2010

PRESIDENT