

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. CP13-0100

Supporting Tuition Equity for all Colorado Students

Introduced by Councilman Paul D. López

WHEREAS, because of our broken national immigration system, countless young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States by no fault of their own, face a future without higher education to strengthen our economy, instead are sentenced to a life of perpetual fear, potential poverty, and possible deportation to countries they have never called home; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 13-033 or The Advancing Students for a Stronger Economy Tomorrow Bill (ASSET) is legislation that has been introduced in the Colorado State Senate; would require that all institutions of higher education classify all graduates or general equivalency diploma (GED) recipients who have lived in Colorado for three years prior to graduation as in-state students for tuition purposes only; and

WHEREAS, by the state's own estimates, higher education revenue would increase by millions of dollars due to hundreds of additional students attending state institutions that otherwise would not do so; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's economic growth and competitiveness require a highly educated workforce; States with a large percentage of college educated residents have higher productivity, and are more likely to attract high-growth industries including biomedical, software, and new energy economy companies; and

WHEREAS, providing tuition equity and allowing undocumented students already living in Colorado to attend postsecondary institutions at in-state rates will help end discrimination and provide equal access to postsecondary options for all Colorado high school graduates; and

WHEREAS, many of these undocumented high school graduates would go on to become university graduates would also be eligible for President Barack Obama's executive order, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, allowing them to legally work and contribute more to our state; and

WHEREAS, with approximately 67 percent of undocumented immigrants living at or below the poverty level, undocumented students who graduate from Colorado high schools face out-of-state tuition rates, and are ineligible for tuition assistance often available to out-of-state students; and

WHEREAS, college graduates are less likely to be caught in a cycle of poverty; they are also more civically engaged, productive, and contribute more to the state tax base; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, 53 percent of Colorado high school graduates did not enroll at state institutions of higher education; an estimated 1,511 of these graduates are undocumented — a few may go to school out of state but most — even exemplary students — are likely precluded from seeking higher education due to its prohibitively high cost; and

WHEREAS, thirteen other states: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and Washington have enacted tuition equity legislation.

**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 supports tuition equity legislation that treats all Colorado students who have been raised and educated in the State of Colorado fairly and equally.

Section 2. That the Council of the City and County of Denver calls upon the Colorado State Senate and House of Representatives to pass the ASSET bill.

Section 3. 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 a copy be transmitted to the Denver Public School Board of Directors; the Honorable State Representative Mark Ferrandino, Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives; the Honorable State Senator John P. Morse, President of the Colorado Senate; and the Honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2013

_____ PRESIDENT