

March 13, 2011

Dear Jeanie Phillips:

It is with much concern that I feel compelled to write to you regarding HB 6390. I must speak out against extending in-state tuition status to undocumented Immigrants residing in Connecticut who meet certain criteria.

Education is precious commodity and a very vital part of what makes the state of Connecticut, and this nation, continue in its prosperity. The ability to participate in post-secondary education should be available to all who wish to participate. As such, it must be available to all those who meet a school's standards and at the same cost. There is absolutely no basis for providing undocumented Immigrants free access to the Connecticut post-secondary in-state schools while those who are residents of this great state have to pay their way.

As a nation in general, and Connecticut, in particular, we are all struggling to find the means to provide our children with the best education possible. The education system in Connecticut is always under budgeted and under staffed. There never seems to be enough to go around. As residents of Connecticut, we expect to contribute to our children's education. Everyone (including the state government) needs to contribute their piece to make the system the best that it can be. There is no reason allow certain individuals to ride for free. Especially individuals who are not legally documented. It almost appears as a bribe; "if you register as an immigrant, the state of Connecticut will provide you free post secondary education at one of our in-state schools". It is a privilege to register to become a U.S. citizen. But this privilege entitles one to pursue becoming an American and to accept the costs that come with it.

I oppose providing free post secondary, in-state education to undocumented citizens. Period. Should this bill pass, it will set a horrible precedent to those of us who are legal residents and who struggle day to day with the cost of educating our children. Please advise on how to explain to our children that the undocumented child down the street will attending UCONN in the fall for free, but we cannot afford to send our children there.