

Dear Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

I support Connecticut's In-State Tuition Bill, which would allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at Connecticut colleges. All students should have the right to education, including higher education. Education helps people succeed, and contributes to the overall health and prosperity of society. If we have more people with college educations, then we have more people who can build bridges and care for the sick and the elderly.

Immigrants come to the United States for a better life, and we should be able to provide them with that. They are willing to work hard and do work hard, helping our society function and contributing to our communities. Immigrants add to the diversity of this country and we should be thankful that they want to be a part of it.

Since the economic argument is often used in today's politics, I will also invoke it here. Allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition allows more of them to attend Connecticut colleges, which means more money for the state. Why would we want to waste the money that we have put into their elementary, middle and high school education by not allowing them to continue on to college? That doesn't make any sense.

I am a student just like the thousands of students who graduate from high school every day but aren't able to continue on to college. The only difference between them and me is a piece of paper. Does that mean that I deserve to go to college more than them? I don't think so. Many undocumented students are valedictorians and heads of their sports teams. The reality is that a huge barrier to them entering college is not their lack of qualifications, since many are readily accepted into Connecticut colleges, but rather their inability to pay out-of-state tuition. Some of these students have lived in Connecticut almost their whole lives, and then colleges tell them that doesn't matter. That is not right. All students should be able to use their education and continue on to college. I urge you to please pass the In-State Tuition Bill to help all Americans, documented and undocumented. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa Meehan

Vice President of Stop the Raids! Students of Trinity College