

-YALE COLLEGE- DEMOCRATS

February 26, 2015

Testimony of Michael Zanger-Tishler
Member, Yale College Democrats

300 Chapel Street, 52 d
New Haven, CT 06511

In favor: S.B. No. 398

An Act Assisting Students Accepted into the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
Program with the Cost of College

My name is Michael Zanger-Tishler and I am a freshman at Yale College. I am writing in favor of S.B. No. 398 because of the tremendous impact higher education has had on my family. When my grandfather attended City College in New York two generations ago, he was the first person on my dad's side of the family to attend college. I am still struck by the profound impact that his college education had on his eventual success and the opportunities I have had in my life. I am also struck by the experience of my father, who went through college on financial aid and was fortunate enough to not have to work as much as my grandfather while in school.

This bill, if it were to pass, would help students who need financial aid the most and can benefit tremendously from receiving a college education. Undocumented students already can receive in state tuition to Connecticut Universities with the passage of the Connecticut DREAM Act in 2011. This bill would make it possible for these students, many of whom could change their lives like my grandfather did by attending college, to attend college. Many capable students are unable to attend because of financial concerns, and it is in the state's best interest to insure that these bright young students can attend college and help to build Connecticut.

As a current college student, I consider myself fortunate every day to be able to attend free of worrying about money and enjoy the chance to study many amazing topics every day. I am convinced not only of the importance of the financial opportunities that getting a college education will afford me but also of the intellectual importance that being a college student will have on my life. I hope that in Connecticut more people can have this opportunity and I believe that S.B. No. 398 is an excellent to start working to achieve this.

Sincerely,

Michael Zanger-Tishler