

At five years old, I immigrated from Mexico to New Haven, Connecticut because of my parent's desire to strive for better opportunities. At first, their need was economic, but with a family at hand, they eventually knew that education was a key to being successful. Therefore, sending me to kindergarten was a head start for them. Fast forwarding a decade later, high school was the era where I found myself passionate in music education. This was inspired after the death of my middle school music teacher: John Miller, whose dedication was to unveil hidden student talent; and I wanted to follow this philosophy. In order to achieve this, I needed to pursue a higher education. By college application season, my parents then acknowledged how education came with a high price, even with the Dream Act Law enacted. To more of my disadvantage, citizenship status also deterred me from opportunities such as scholarships as well as face hardships like discrimination for not being a U.S. citizen—making college seem more of a burden than a dream.

Against these odds, I still made the commitment to become a student at the University of Connecticut by working on campus on top with my parents working twice as hard to pay this worthwhile expense. In any other event, the House Bill 6844 AN ACT CONCERNING IN-STATE TUITION ELIGIBILITY which would lower the in-state residency requirement for undocumented students from four years to 2 years. AND House Bill 6845 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION, part of which would open up access to some financial aid for undocumented students can fundamentally help me afford a degree that will then give me the opportunity to pass on the education as a teacher to my students, and as parent to my future children. But in real time, the current

labor that my parents are putting towards me can then be divided for my sister, who will also pursue a higher education this fall.

Sincerely,

Jesus Cortes-Sanchez