

# -YALE COLLEGE- DEMOCRATS

February 26, 2015

Testimony of Jiahui Hu  
Member, Yale College Democrats

206 Elm Street, F42  
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 parents immigrated to the United States when I was three years old with a college degree, my sister and me. From eating onions every day because they were the cheapest vegetable at the supermarkets and to constant budgeting, the first decade of their lives here were hectic and strained. Even though both put in endless hours each week at the lab and in the office, both put my education at the top of their priorities. My mother met frequently with school counselors and my dad arranged his hours so that he could pick me up from extra-curricular activities.

They wanted the best for me and they were willing to put in more than enough hours for it. Likewise, I've noticed that almost all of my friends in college, no matter they're immigration status, have had parents dedicated to their children's' education. But, very few families, including my own, have the means to pay around thirty grand each year without adding crippling debt or working almost full-time jobs that would compromise academic work. So, from the viewpoint of a family like mine, the final monetary hurdle of a college education can often be cripplingly disappointing after eighteen years of constant support. Luckily for me, I decided to attend an institution that was willing to match my contribution with my need. In the end, I hope that the Connecticut legislation will see the importance of supporting the families who have sacrificed and the students who need an education. For the future prosperity of Connecticut and our inclusive values, I wholly support S.B. No. 398.