

Dear members of the Higher Education committee of the General Assembly.

My name is Abigail Andrade-Solis from New Milford, CT, and I am a student of Western Connecticut State University. I am a member of the organization CT Students for a Dream. I stand in support of SB 147: AN ACT ASSISTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS WITH THE COST OF COLLEGE. This bill would equalize access to institutional financial aid at Connecticut public universities and colleges to all students regardless of immigration status.

I am from Veracruz, Mexico I arrived to the U.S fourteen years ago with a medical visa when I was seven. I came to the United States because my sisters are conjoined and my family wanted more medical advice about separating the girls. It was not possible, but my sisters still need medical treatment so that why my family stayed longer. Our visa was for ten years and shortly that time came as a result from that my family and I had to apply for work permits. Even though I may have my work permit my life hasn't been that easy.

I am a graduate student of New Milford High school I was part of the track through out the four years. My favorite subject was accounting and math and I received the highest grade on a state test that would go towards college credits. Currently I am a Junior at western Connecticut State University studying supervisory Management. My goal is to become a manager to a big company and to demonstrate the talent that we Latina woman have. It is important for me to get an education because I grow as a person and will be able to deal with changes that come your way. Also by having an education I hope to have a better income and to accomplish the things I cant do now.

I may have many struggles, but it has not knocked me down. One of my biggest struggle that has been emotional is that I had to change my major at school from accounting to management because I would take a few more years if I did accounting. Because I pay out of pocket every semester and I get no financial aid it would be difficult to continue school longer therefore I picked a major that would be shorter, but still be in the business field. Another struggle is that by being the older sister in the house and able to speak English I have a lot on my plate. I have dealt with immigration paper work since I was younger and helped my parents file them.

If the Bill SB 147 is passed it will make a big change in my future. I would pursue my accounting career and became a CPA like I have always dreamed off. Also because I would receive financial aid my family and I would not have to work day and night to pay tuition it would be a weight lifted off our shoulders. I would not have to be worried if I will have enough money for the next months payment. If the bill got passed then I would take extra classes to graduate on time.

This bill must be passed because it will help the state of Connecticut by having more college graduates which means income will be higher therefore the economy will boost. Also if we students get financial aid it will help with our future when building a family. Because we would be college graduates it will inspire our kids to expend their education and stay out of trouble. To end with, the most important reason this bill should be passed is that our parents will have the opportunity to see us graduate and remember why we came to this country the land of opportunities for all.

I Support SB 147 and hope the committee will vote on SB 147 .

Thank you for your time ,

Abigail Andrade-Solis, New milford,CT