

Dear Members of the Higher Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Angelica Idrovo, 19 years old. First Generation to go to College. I belong to the Organization CT Student for a Dream and I'm the Regional Organizer from Danbury. 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.

My native home is Ecuador and I came when I was 12 years old. Me and my family were fortunate to come to the land of opportunities in 2008. I have lived in US and in Connecticut for the last 8 years. The only goal of my parents to bring me and my two brothers was to have a better future, "The American Dream".

After learning the language in middle school. My goal in my four years of High School was getting into college to get my Professional Degree. I had a 3.6 GPA Senior in High School. I worked very hard in those four years, I was a High Honors student, I got involved in many Clubs and also I founded a new club, the "Fighting Child Hunger". Outside the school I was always involved in many Community Services Programs. But it wasn't until my senior year that I realized that things were more challenging to me because of my undocumented status. Many of the scholarships that I wanted to apply, I couldn't meet the requirements because I wasn't a U.S Born citizen or a Resident.

But that didn't stop me. I knew I had to go to college in order to give myself a better opportunity in life. My parents were very supportive and optimistic. Even though they couldn't help me out fill out the applications because of their lack of English, they were there for me all the time.

I applied to WCSU because that's where I wanted to go and after that, I apply for FAFSA but my application was denied because I didn't have a Social number. After couple months I received a letter of acceptance from Western State Connecticut University. And also a notice that I won three scholarship each of them worth 1000 dollars but it wasn't enough. Soon I knew my family and I couldn't afford to pay the amount of money for tuition.

My goal to see myself graduate one day didn't stop. I took the decision to continue and go to Naugatuck Valley Community College. I'm currently working full time and also I have a part time job to help me pay for college. I'm on my third transfer year, It is still not easy to afford to an education. I have to transfer to WCSU soon in order to achieve my bachelors. I'm pursuing two majors at the time, Psychology and Finance.

Institutional Aid will be a dream come true. It's not easy to be 19 and have two job and to go to school. If SB 147 passed and I am able to have access to institutional aid, I will be able to transfer to WCSU or UCONN to complete my dream of achieving a Bachelor's Degree. I will be able to return to school as a full time student and have more time to focus on my studies because I won't need to work one full time job and one part job to save money for school.

I support SB 147 and hope the committee will vote favorably on SB 147.

Thank you for your time,
Angelica Idrovo
Danbury, CT