



**UCONN COLLEGE DEMOCRATS**  
**Storrs, Connecticut**  
**Primary Contact: Brianna DeVivo**  
**E-mail: uconncollegedemocrats@gmail.com**

In favor: Senate Bill No. 147, An Act Assisting Students Without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College

Honorable Chairs Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, and the members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, the University of Connecticut College Democrats are writing in favor of Senate Bill Number 147, An Act Assisting Students Without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College.

We are asking that the Committee vote favorably to grant undocumented students access to institutional financial aid at Connecticut college and universities on the same terms and conditions as other Connecticut students. We support this legislation as it takes the vital steps needed in creating educational equity by opening the doors to institutional financial aid. We believe that our undocumented peers should have fair and equal access to this aid.

Connecticut has taken important steps towards making higher education more accessible to all over the past decade. Past legislation has granted some of our undocumented peers the ability to qualify for in-state tuition rates. Unfortunately, many immigrant students and families remain unable to afford the high cost of tuition without any financial assistance. Without access to this aid, the dream of higher education remains out of reach for so many of these Connecticut residents.

It is important that Connecticut opens the door to higher education for these students by allowing them access to institutional aid. Institutional aid is funded by tuition revenue. When they pay their tuition, undocumented students contribute to this pool of money, set aside by institutions as mandated by Connecticut law. They deserve the same access to it as all other Connecticut students.

We believe that extending institutional financial aid to undocumented students is a strong investment in the future of Connecticut. An obtainable and realistic path to college for these students will result in higher high school graduation rates and increased college matriculation. It is also a way to address the need for educational equality in our state. Our legislature has adopted a goal of closing the achievement gap and fostering progress among low-income and limited English-proficient students. In creating greater access to higher education for these students, Connecticut will be better able to meet its statutory mandate and increase racial and socioeconomic diversity in the state's colleges and universities.

We thank you for your time and attention on this matter. This issue is of great importance to all undocumented students in our state. We stand with our peers and believe they have the right to the same affordable education we have been fortunate enough to receive without the struggle they have had to endure. We hope that the Committee will vote favorably on Senate Bill Number 147.