

Dear Members of the Higher Education Committee,

We all from America,

My name is Byron Xavier Arevalo, I am a student at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. I am a member of 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.

I come from Ecuador. My dad immigrated to the U.S. when I was two years old and then my mom immigrate to the U.S. I stayed in Ecuador with my brother and with my two sisters. When my mom leave us we moved to live with my grandmother where we lived for two years, after that we moved to live with my aunt for two years, after that we moved to live with my cousin for two years and after that we move to live with my older sister for a two years and then my sister moved to live with her husband so I was living alone. When I was 14 years old already, my mom decided to bring us to the U.S. My brother, sister and myself come in an airplane up to Honduras after that we came just in cars and sometimes walking. We got to the US and I saw my dad after 12 years and I saw my mom after 10 years. I was so happy and that day was the best day of my life. My mom and dad put us to study at high school, people around me told me that I will not able to go to the college because I was an undocumented person. One day CT FOR DREAM came to my class and told me that yes, I'm able to go the college, and they told me that my migratory statues is not a problem. I was happy and I stared enjoying at clubs and doing community services at Danbury High School. I started working when I was 14 years old and I been saving al my money to pay my education. I work in construction, cleaning, etc. When I was a senior I apply to W.C.S.U. and I got accepted. Right now I'm going to W.C.S.U. and I'm a major Pre-Dental on Chemistry. I pay 6 thousand for every semester, which means for a year I have to pay 12 thousand. Nobody help me to pay all that I have to work and my parents work really hard to help me. The reason why I want to become a Dentist is because I have a sister who was born with cleft lip and she doesn't have teeth in the front and I want to study and learn how help other kids like her. The reason why I want to pass this bill, SB 147, is because I don't have enough money to pay for all 4 years, I may have to stop studying and I don't want to stop, but if there is not money what I can do? People at America say "education is first", I agree, but help us to get educated. Also, I have my brother he is a senior in high school and he wants to go college and be a teacher, I want him to be able to. Thanks for listening me and God bless all.

I support SB 147 and hope you will as well,

Byron Xavier Arevalo