

Honorable members of the Higher Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

I'm presenting testimony today in support of the senate bill S.B. 147

My name is Edgardo Perez-Cabrera, from New Milford, I am a proud student of Naugatuck Valley Community College. I am a member of the organization, Connecticut Students for a Dream, I stand in support of SB147, AN ACT ASSISTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS WITH THE COST OF THE COLLEGE. This bill would equalize access to institutional financial aid at Connecticut public universities to all students regardless of immigration status.

I was born in Chiquimula, Guatemala. I come to United States in the year 2,000 when I was sixteen years old.

Since I was a little kid I know the importance of education, because is the way to go far in life and do something for others.

My goal has always been to be a good professional and help others, with a clear dream, be an engineer, and work hard in a American company. Education in United States is not an easy road, it has many obstacles and very dark tunnels. Now I am attending Naugatuck Valley Community College, finally I am reaching my dream, and after this my purpose is attend University of Connecticut, I want to be an agricultural engineer

The first big obstacle that I found was the documentation; but my dreams and goals never die, thinking about finishing my university education, using my knowledge to invent, create, or innovate the humanity, just for the simple "rule of life" which is come to this planet and do something good for others

The daily life is very expensive and make very difficult attend college, between rent, food, transportation, etc. are very low chances to pay college tuition with a minimum wage salary. With this I am not complaining about the American life style, I am grateful to live in a nation of freedom and justice for all, I am just explaining the hard reality.

Many of us support our families and other are married and have babies which make it even more difficult. As me, like many others students we are kept from our education process because of the money factor, and we do not have the necessary documentation to complete the financial aid application form.

The institutional aid equality will help to all those students and me to reach our dreams, to be someone, to demonstrate how smart we are and how successful we can be.

All we need is a little bit of help.

With institutional aid we will help Connecticut to have more professionals in the work force improving the state economy.

I love this amazing nation with democracy and opportunities, I want to serve this country as a good professional, giving my knowledge and energy to keep building this great nation of freedom and justice for all.

I am so proud to be part Connecticut and United States of America.

I support SB 147 and hope the committee will vote favorably on SB147.

Thank you for your time,
Edgardo Perez-Cabrera.
New Milford.