

02-29-2016

My name is Eliel Martinez; I am from Wallingford, CT. 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 intuitional financial aid at Connecticut public universities and colleges to all students regardless of immigration status.

“Education is the key to success, the children are the future, and no child should be left behind.” These are just some of the quotes/phrases that have been repeated time and time again in the United States. A good amount of people agree with the idea of sending children to school and having them make something out of their lives so that they can one day be able to have a stable job/career and not have to suffer in poverty and despair. But why is it that when it comes to attending college, undocumented students are somehow left out of the equation? This country was founded on the idea that everyone is created equal and everyone is equally entitled to the same natural rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It just about seems that society gives a blind eye towards these natural rights. If an undocumented student’s pursuit of happiness is to further their education by going to college, then why rip the opportunity away from them when they too were created equal and have the same natural rights, according to the founders of this country.

I myself was born in this country and because of this was able to receive financial aid. Even though I have received help from the government, there are many other costs and bills to be paid aside from college or even bills that are related to college but financial aid simply won’t cover it. Seeing how I have my personal struggles it is absolutely nothing compared to what I have seen some of my family members and friends go through. Unfortunately some of them had to leave and go back to their countries because they were not allowed to pursue their happiness of going to college. I support and I am speaking out because of the inequality of not giving intuitional aid, which grants and offers scholarships to perspective students, but not to undocumented students. Many people attack the idea of giving institutional aid to undocumented students because they think they know the facts of what could happen and how things will turn out for our economy and taxes ect. I urge the legislatures to support this bill because only then will every student in this country have a fair shot of success. Some of these undocumented students may even make a breakthrough in science, history, and other aspects of life, but no one will never know if the legislature does not give everyone an equal chance. Extending financial aid to undocumented students is an investment in the future of Connecticut and for sure will help the economy. Many people fear that by having financial aid extended on to undocumented students they are going to have to pay more taxes but they will actually pay \$0 because institutional aid is funded by tuition revenue not taxpayer money. If we truly are created equal and are entitled to the same natural rights as our founding fathers have said then seriously why rip that last part of that statement from undocumented students. If it’s true that no child is left behind then why should they be left behind when it’s time for that big step of success in life?

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

Thank you for your time,

Eliel Martinez