

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Isamar Samaniego from Danbury, CT and I a student or graduate of Danbury High School. I am a member of the organization 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. This bill would equalize access to institutional financial aid at Connecticut public universities and colleges to all students regardless of immigration status.

I'm from Ecuador, I have been almost two years living in the city Danbury CT. US. My situation was very difficult in Ecuador. My parents had a very low money situation, so we decided to migrate to the US. My parents only wanted the best future and opportunities for me and my brother, they were thinking of us when they decided to come to the US.

I am at Danbury High School, I am senior and I want to go to college after I leave the secondary school in Danbury. The reason I want to finish my studies is because I want to have my bachelor's degree and fulfill my dream of having a career and supporting my family.

I am an undocumented immigrant student, I also do not qualify for DACA sine I've only been here 2 years. As a result I have faced many struggles in my life. I have been rejected by major social groups, which you can only attend if you are documented. I've had to reject, or been denied, great opportunities to help me realize my dreams, I've been denied to have financial aid for college and lost big dreams by realizer. I divide my time between being occupy in work and the other time is to study in order to go to college and finish my dreams,

SB147 and institutional aid would allow me to attend and graduate from college, and get my degree in graphic design. It would give us the confidence we need and the financial support we need to undertake in getting our dreams and to have the opportunity to achieve our dreams. That's my dream, to be one more of the immigrants that can make it and complete their American dream

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

Isamar Samaniego

Danbury, CT