

Dear Sirs,

I hope you will pass S.B. 147, regarding economic assistance to students without legal status. While immigration and state funds is a complex issue this particular question seems 'self contained' by virtue of the fact that these students, regardless of their status, are paying into the pool from which the assistance is taken. This would seem to pre-empt any accusations of 'freebies' to non-citizens.

I am writing from Danbury. We have large immigrant population. Immigrants of varied legal status are, and have been, and integral part of the community in everyway. Those bothering to work their way through college and are seeking financial assistance to do implicitly prove their worth as members of Connecticut by their efforts, often very difficult, to do so. They are working to improve themselves and their ability to contribute to the state. By redistributing money that they have already paid in the state of CT will be helping these worthy applicants and the state as a whole.

The economic arguments are obvious: they will be earning more money on their own, obviating need for social services. Eventually they will be contributing more to tax revenue. In these trying fiscal times, this bill seems like a 'no-brainer'. Let's avoid narrow-minded efficiencies and political intimidation and do what has been previously strived for by the state in regards to educational equality.

Granting this assistance is both moral and economically pragmatic. Let's advance the bill in some form.

James Root  
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