

Dear Members of the Higher Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

Hello my name is Johnny Quinde and I live in Danbury Connecticut for most of my life. I am 20 years old and I have arrived to the United States when I was 5 years old. I stand in support of SB 147: AN ACT ASSISTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS WITH THE COST OF COLLEGE.

I am originally from Ecuador and my parents decided to bring me here for a better future than what my own country couldn't provide for me. My parents decided this because themselves had nothing but grade school education and what word that I will end up the same way as them, but since they brought me here I have a better future. It's thanks to them as well as did the education that I received here in the United States that I am to have the opportunity to become what I have dream for. Even though that I had the opportunity to go to college I have family members, as well as very close friends, that don't have this opportunity and I believe that everyone has the right to pursue anything that they want to become as well as their dream regardless of the documentation they have.

I come from working-class Latino family my mother and father thankfully have provided me with the love and support that any parent would for their child to be successful. Being denied to follow what they dream for is unjustified. It's thanks to them that I was able to graduate from Danbury high school and as well as the professors and teachers there that help me.

I am currently enrolled in Naugatuck Valley community college. I have come to understand that college is very important but paying thousands of dollars is something not every person can do. Myself I pay for college out from my own pocket, I go to a community college because I cannot afford to pay for a 4-year state university. I have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), so I do not qualify for financial aid, this bill would allow me to qualify and allow me to keep pursuing my education.

I have also become part of the police explorer program here in Danbury they have taught me a lot. a lot about leadership and how to be a good citizen even though I am not one a citizen because of my documentation, I am a DACA recipient (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). I joined the police explorers program because I wanted to become a police officer but that cannot happen because of my documentation even though I was told and I can become one that is not going to stop me from accomplishing my dream. I am right now I'm currently studying business management and I'm going to become one a successful business owner.

I am not the only one that has this ambition to become better. This is why this bill should be passed because like myself there are others who are looking to better themselves not just themselves but the better of this country it will be a great asset and contribution for this country. I can guarantee that if we are given the opportunity of having Financial aid to achieve what we are striving for we will succeed and better this country.

Thank you,
Johnny Quinde, Danbury, CT