

Feb 29th, 2016

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

My name is Jordhan Ferreira from Danbury and I am a student at Danbury High School and a volunteer at Escape to the Arts. 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 was born in Brazil and came to the US when I was only one year old. I have been in the US for 17 years. All these years, I've been studying and working hard to make my single mom proud. We are undocumented here.

I want to attend college because you can't make it in the US without a diploma. An education is important to me because I want to study to make something out of myself and make my mom proud. I hope to study automotive technology and work on cars, which is my passion. I want an education so I can make a life for myself in the United States, and help my family as much as can with their expenses. My mom has done so much for me, moving here to give us a better life, I want to be able to give her a better life.

I have faced many struggles as an undocumented student. It's hard to find a job to hire you. And when they do, you have to be willing to work long hours with little pay. Its tough work, and sometimes it's hard to keep up with school. But I do it, because I know I want to have an education after high school. These barriers have affected me in pursuing my dreams of an education. It's tough to save money for college when you have to earn money to support your family as much as you can, so you and your family won't wind up on the street. You don't want to see anyone wind up on the street.

SB 147 and institutional aid will make everything better for me and my family, and for so many others. It will mean that people will be able to study. They will be able to live a better life with knowing what they learn in college. People will be able to have access to education and better themselves because of it. Access to institutional aid would mean a lot to me personally, it would change my life. It would mean that I wouldn't have to work so much to support my family and save money for school. It would mean I would be able to spend more time with my family.

Legislators should vote in support of SB 147 and support it so that people won't have to struggle in life with looking for a job, because they will be able to get a college education and make a better future for themselves. In the US, like anywhere else, we work hard to get anywhere.

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

Thank you for your time,
Jordhan Ferreira,
Danbury High School Student
Danbury, CT