

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

My name is Karina Baltazar from Danbury, CT, and I am a graduate of Danbury High School. 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 Mexico and I've been in the United States since I turned a year old. I've live my whole life in the United States. My mom arrived to the US first to give me a better future. A few months later my grandma and I came to the United States.

I graduate from Danbury High School last year (2015), I am not in college right now, I am working at an after school program, teaching art classes to youth. But I do want to attend college. I would like to learn more about art history and major in art.

As an undocumented student I've struggled in paying for college which set me back in applying. I have DACA but I don't qualify for financial aid.

Having SB 147 and institutional aid will make things better for my family because I will be able to continue my education and go to college. Financial aid would mean that I'll be able to pay for classes on my own.

This bill is very important because it offers the opportunity to apply for financial aid when one can't afford to pay for college.

I support SB 147. Thank you for your time,  
Karina Baltazar  
Danbury, CT