

Public Hearing Testimony: SB 147

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

My name is Maria del Carmen Andrade Solis, from New Milford, and I am a student of Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury, CT. I am a member of the organization CT Students for a DREAM. I'm writing 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 am from Veracruz, Mexico and I lived in Connecticut since the year 2002. I came to United States with a medical visa, to find out a way to separate me and my conjoined twin sister Maria Guadalupe.

I am attending Nonnewaug High School, and I am focusing in Vet Science, and I want to go to College because I want to have a career and work hard with love and passion and that will make me a good professional. Professionals like veterinarians that we need in Connecticut and United States.

My grades are excellent and, I want to go to Saint George University located in Grenada, West Indies. It's a University that specialized in Vet Science. I want to return to the US to practice my career. My sister and me, we share the same dream.

We are three sisters in our family. Our older sister Abigail is already attending college and I see how difficult it is for our family. My parents work hard as much they can to give us the necessary to have a normal happy life, such as food, school supplies, etc. But sometimes we are struggling with rent, food and many other money related situations and I am afraid my dream to be a veterinarian will have to be put away.

SB 147 and Institutional Aid needs to be approved and with this more students will be able to realize their dreams, regardless of the migratory status which is not fair, and then later work in a place in life where really can use our potential and knowledge.

With this bill, we will support the state economy big time. Everyone has the right to do better in life and only with education that can be possible.

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

Thank you for your time,

Maria del Carmen Andrade Solis.
New Milford, CT