



Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Maria and I am a student at New London High School. 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 Peru but I was raised in Spain. I've been in the US for almost two years now. I am 15 years old and a sophomore in high school with a 3.5GPA. Ever since I was small I was motivated to study. My mother worked as a teacher in Peru and she raised me to focus on school and to work hard. When I was young, I dreamed about being a dentist by day, and a fashion designer by night. I was always very good at school, especially math. When I was 6 years old, I moved from Peru to Spain. At this age I already knew my multiplication tables through number 7; however when I got to school in Spain, the kids my age were doing adding and subtracting and only very basic multiplication. Because of this, they put me in the next grade up. I continued to study hard in school and still do- just look at my GPA.

In my future, I dream of being an architect, a psychologist, or working in the field of marketing. I know that in each of these fields I cannot succeed without a college degree. My goal is to get a good job in my future and be able to help my family financially. My situation as an undocumented student is a major struggle and barrier in my life.

Many of my friends are able to work while I can't because of my situation. That's a huge barrier for me since I like to work and earn things for myself. My family won't be able to afford the full price of a decent college. I was planning on working to raise money for my education but I'm unable to do that because of my immigration status.

I am not asking for special treatment. I am asking only that I have the same opportunity as other students in the state of CT to go to college and to better my future for myself and my family. I support SB147 and hope the committee will vote favorably on SB147.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maria