

February 29, 2016

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

My name is Moises Garcia Legeo from Danbury, and I am a student of Danbury High School, and a member of Escape to the Arts After School Program in Danbury. 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'm not undocumented myself, but many of my friends are. I hear their stories all the time. Of how their mother brought them here to the US for a change for a better life and an education. Many people don't understand that when undocumented immigrants come to the US, they are seeking a better life, and they want to work for that better life.

I am currently attending Danbury High School. While in high school, I'm studying to become a contractor and learning the skills to become a banker and work in a bank.

Many of my friends who are undocumented, face many barriers and struggles because of their status. These barriers often affect their hopes of pursuing a college education and even of having dreams for their future. Undocumented students can't get financial aid or most scholarships, so many don't see college as an option for them. They see that they lack money and there is no way to get finds for school. They get discouraged, Students need to raise money to pay for their college all by themselves, and they families often don't have any money at all to help. Some of my friends work 3 jobs in the hopes of saving money. Its very difficult for them,

SB 147 won't personally help me, but it will help one of my close friends. He needs this bill to pass so that he can go to college. There are a lot of undocumented people who aren't allowed to go to college because there is no way to pay for it.

This Bill, SB 147, is important and legislators should pass it because undocumented people should get the same opportunities as people who were born here, and het the same education. Your ability to get an education shouldn't be determined by where you were born.

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

Thank you for your time,
Moises Garcia Legeo
Danbury High School Student
Danbury, CT