

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

My name is Nelson Neira from Danbury, CT, and I am a student at Danbury 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'm from Ecuador, I've been one year and half in this country. I came to this country with my family because the economic situation in Spain was not good.

I'm going to Danbury High School. After I graduate high school I want to go to the University of Florida to study Business Administration. Getting this education is important to me because I want to improve my life with a job that I like and can support my family with.

I know that going to college will be a struggle for me. Tuition payments will be very difficult to pay because of the economic situation and because I will not be able receive financial aid to pay for college because I'm an undocumented immigrant student.

My dreams for my future are for me to have my own company and run my own business. SB147 would help me to get a better future, it would allow me access to the financial aid that I need to be able to go to college. This bill would also help my younger brother and sister to study what they want and also get the help that they need. Financial Aid would mean that we will all be able to study and go to college.

SB 147 is an important bill that the legislators should pass because I will allow students like me to get financial aid. If it passes I will be able to go to the University and create my company. The legislators should support it because it will give us the opportunity to move forward, study and get a better future in this country to many immigrants.

I support SB 147. Thank you for your time,
Nelson Neira,
Danbury, CT