

March 1st, 2016

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

My name is Pablo Idrovo. First Generation to go to College. I'm a member of the Organization CT Student 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.

My name is Pablo and I'm from Ecuador. I was brought into the United States at the age of 11. My parents came looking for a better economic stability for my family and also to provide me and my siblings with a better education. I rejected at first having to lose my family. Losing my culture. Losing my language. But as I started to grow up I realize that I was brought into this country, the land of the dreams, for a reason, to have a better future.

My father after a demanding day of work come up to me and told me " be different than me and your mother". I didn't understand and so he explained " you shouldn't break your back and do demanding jobs to provide for yourself or to bring food for your family. You should try your hardest to get a good education in order to achieve a better position in life" . That comment impacted greatly on my academic choices during my secondary education.

During the end of middle school I learned about a local private high school in my area that had better education standards than the public high school. With the desire to have the best education I can get, with the help of a local non-profit program and my own academic merits, I got a full scholarship to attend this private high school.

In Immaculate High School, my current high school, where I've grown in the most important years of my life by trying many various activities while keeping my ultimate goal of going to college in my mind. I got involved in many clubs; National Honor Society, Student Council where I'm the director of activities, International Club where I'm the Director of

Communications, Peer Leadership Club, and Debate Club. I've also been involved with community service. Last year I got the Silver presidential award signed by Barack Obama for doing more than 175 hours of community service. I've volunteer in my local hospital, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, my parish, and many other great institutions. I've gotten many academic awards for my academic merits and for having a social conscience. My high school Citizenship's award, the Saint Michael's College Book Award for a social conscience, I was nominated and won the Ct Alliance for tennis and education scholarship.

I have many dreams for my future and a college degree is essential for my success. My career goal is to achieve a career of accounting and work for one of the big four accounting firms. I've applied to the UCONN and Western Connecticut State University. Thanks to God and my hard work I was giving a full ride to Western Connecticut but I'm still waiting to hear back from UCONN. Alike me almost all undocumented students have trouble financing for college. That's why I'm standing here to ask you for the institutional aid that undocumented students deserve. The tuition that undocumented college students pay to public institutions goes into the pool of institutional monetary aid that's currently available only to american students only. I'm here to make it clear that All undocumented students are american students. Unlike the political definitions of legal and illegal, I believe that to be an American means to fight for our dreams, to work hard to improve our country, to desire to enjoy the rest of your life in this country. To achieve all of this we american students need the necessary financial aid to afford college and consequently achieve our dreams. My name is Pablo and I'm an American.