

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

My name is Sleyther Chavaria from Danbury, CT, and I am a student at Naugatuck Valley Community College. 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 immigrated to the US when I was merely 3 years old giving me 15 years living in the US. Coming from Costa Rica at such a young age got me to believe I was never really from there. Like many other immigrant my family came here to find better jobs and healthier lifestyles,

I graduated Danbury High School and now attend Naugatuck Valley Community College. I'm currently studying to become a social worker. I went to college for the credibility it gives someone going into the work force.

Me as a documented student, I still face the struggle of maintaining a job along with school. I know it must be even harder for people who have not been able to get documented.

Obtaining financial aid is important because although you may have multiple jobs there are people who don't work or don't have to worry about supporting the rest of their family. Most immigrant and other low-income people have families to support and don't get any financial aid. SB 147 and financial aid surely would make greater different to many people.

Documentation does not define the desire one has to go out and get their education. I believe that if it truly is desired that the opportunity is given

Thank you for your time,
Sleyther Chavaria
Danbury, CT