



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

RE: S.B. No. 147

AN ACT ASSISTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS WITH THE COST OF COLLEGE

Recommended Committee Action: SUPPORT THE BILL

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association [CT AILA] is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization comprised of immigration attorneys and law professors. AILA was founded in 1946 to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members.

The Connecticut Chapter has approximately 175 members who represent U.S. families seeking permanent residence for close family members, as well as U.S. businesses seeking talent from the global marketplace. CT AILA Members also represent foreign students, entertainers, athletes, and asylum seekers, often on a pro bono basis.

Based on these experiences, CT AILA supports S.B. 147 as a reasonable, fair solution to provide financial assistance to undocumented students.

- Institutional aid is money that colleges set aside from tuition payments in order to support students with financial need.
- Like all students at Connecticut's public universities and colleges, undocumented students pay into and contribute to the pool of funds that is used for institutional aid. But undocumented students are barred from receiving any of this aid under current law.
- Undocumented students should be eligible for institutional aid as all other students who pay tuition.
- A majority of these students are likely to have work authorization and will be able to contribute to Connecticut's highly educated workforce when they graduate.
- Educating all Connecticut students, regardless of immigration status, benefits the state and its communities by creating a highly educated workforce. Providing financial aid to these students helps ensure access to education.
- Connecticut should join other states in passing legislation that equalizes access to institutional financial aid for all students regardless of immigration status.

CT AILA strongly supports S.B. 147 and urges the committee to vote in favor of the bill.

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