

March 1, 2016

My name is Josué López and I am an English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher in Windham High School in Windham, CT. I am writing in support of SB 147: An Act Assisting Students Without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost of College. I assert that this bill will provide one more layer of equity our communities need for those who are pursuing higher education.

It is with heaviness in my heart that I have to explain to some of my undocumented students why they cannot attend the University of Connecticut Storrs, where I traveled to throughout the year to complete my Masters and where I will begin doctoral studies in the fall, because they cannot access the same financial aid I can. Though they work with the same motivation and possess the same drive as I did in high school, it is their circumstance and timing in searching for a better life which prevents them from having the same opportunities as you and I. We have the power to acknowledge their incredible capacity to survive and thrive in difficult conditions. With this power, we should assure that they have access to the same opportunities as any other student in the classroom.

If there is any other information that I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me at lopez.r.josue@gmail.com. Thank you for taking your time to tackle such an important issue.

En solidaridad,

Josué López