

FWDYale

Testimony of Laura Plata
Advocacy Ambassador, FWDYale

February 28, 2016
206 Elm Street,
New Haven, CT 06511

In favor: S.B. 147
 An Act Assisting Students without Legal Immigration Status with the Cost
 of College.

To the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Higher Education and Employment,

My name is Laura Plata, and I am a first generation, low-income student attending Yale University. I am writing to urge that you, and other members of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment vote in favor of S.B. 1147. Growing up in an immigrant community, I have witnessed first hand the issues undocumented students face in trying to pay for college while being unable to access institutional financial aid. Despite years of being told in high school that academic achievement and extracurricular involvement would grant them the opportunity to attend college, many undocumented students were disappointed to discover that this was simply not the case for them.

Due to financial constraints, several students in my high school who were ambitious, hardworking, and intelligent individuals were forced to turn down offers from schools they had been accepted into. It is unjust that such students who have the drive succeed in college and ability to contribute to the improvement of American society be denied academic opportunities on the basis of their legal status. Through this bill, you and other members of the General Assembly would be upholding the right to an education in increasing accessibility for students who lack the financial means to pursue a degree.

Sincerely,

Laura Plata