



State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

860-240-8555

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis, Senator Flexer, Representative Lopes, Senator Witkos and Representative Betts and other members of the Higher Education and Employee Advancement Committee.

My name is Subira Gordon and I am the legislative analyst for the African American Affairs Commission. The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

I am writing to offer support for SB 147 AN ACT ASSISTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS WITH THE COST OF COLLEGE.

For the last two years the AAAC has been involved with the CT Higher Ed not Debt coalition which has been working towards creating a debt free higher education system in the state. Many undocumented students fall victim to high interest rates on private loans as they are unable to otherwise qualify for federal aid. By extending in state tuition to these students

Connecticut would be allowing access to higher education for some of the neediest families in the state.

Recently on a visit to Miami Dade community college I met a young man who was an undocumented resident in Florida but had gained access to the community college system. He was graduating and received a full scholarship from Harvard University where he would go on to earn a BA. This student was afforded the opportunity to excel and not be held back due to his undocumented status.

I urge you to pass this bill and continue to help undocumented students in the state access to affordable higher education.

Subira Gordon
Legislative Analyst
African American Affairs Commission