

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support HB5031 Equal Access to Financial Aid for Immigrant Students. It is a matter of fundamental fairness that students who pay into a fund be allowed access to the benefits of that fund.

I am an attorney who works with undocumented youth, handling DACA cases among others. I have also worked with United We Dream and Connecticut Students for a Dream. Many of my clients, and people I have met through DACA clinics, are extremely bright and talented. We would do well to encourage them to stay in Connecticut and to contribute to the best of their considerable abilities.

This legislature recognized the contribution these young people can make when it passed the In State Tuition law. This Equal Access to Financial Aid bill will be another step to helping make college affordable.

As you know, institutional aid is paid for by tuition payments, not by taxpayer dollars. Thus it costs taxpayers nothing to give these students access to the fund which their dollars support. Please act favorably on this legislation.

Thank you,

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