



Dream!
Just
Dream!

March 9, 2012

President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Barack Obama:

I am a U.S resident, not a citizen yet. I'll be submitting the N.400 later on and I feel lucky I can attend college.

I'm not asking you to approve the Dream Act. I understand it's not all in your power and you have done a lot by taking H.R.1842 up to Congress. I did some research on the recent case of Daniela Palaez. She is first in her graduation class and also fights deportation. Daniela, with the help of her lawyer and Congressman David Rivera, created the Star Bill. This bill is similar to the Dream Act, only it has been adjusted for the specifications of the Republicans. That way there is a better chance for the bill to be approved. In an interview given to a Hispanic TV Newscast Daniela said, "Both parties, Republican and Democratic want to help immigrants in this country, only in different ways." (www.Univision.com/alpunto). In my opinion both parties have the same idea, only different ways to approach it. That's when parties have to work together, maybe adjusting a bill or just creating a new one.

I believe that everyone deserves to have an education. By attending college, a person's chance for a better job increases and that way becoming somebody in society. Dreams come closer with proper education. Like you mentioned in the year end press conference, "That can't be who we are, to have kids. Our kids, classmates of our children, who are suddenly under this shadow of fear. Through no faults of their own. They did not break a law, they were kids.." This is very important. When a baby is taken to a new place, a new country, the baby will then grow and adapt to that place and call it a home. When they want to follow the next step to go to college, they realize they are not like the rest. In the place they call home, they are different.

I attend Maine West High School in Des Plaines, Illinois. My family arrived to the U.S 11 years ago. I was only seven years old. Immigrants come for a better life, we come for the land of opportunity. That's the nickname for the U.S in other countries. I have a lot of friends: Hispanic, White, African-American, European, Asian and from the Middle East. I've known a lot of them since I was 7. When I did not know English, they were there. Now, in high school, everything changes. Some will go to work, some will go to college. The ones that will go to college will be because they can, the ones that work because they will have to. I feel upset, how those personal friends will not be able to use their special skills to continue

their education. I'm asking you , the President of the United States, as you said in the year end press conference," My Hope and expectation, first of all. Everybody understands I am determined and this administration is determined to get immigration reform done. It is the right thing to do."

I am writing this letter, and sharing some personal stuff for you to reconsider adjusting the Dream Act, or creating another bill similar like the Star Bill, and keep trying. Millions ,not only in America, believe that the Dream Act is possible. The world believes in the United States, the land of opportunity.

Please consider my ideas. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gustavo

Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Duncan:

As a student, I am asking you and others to reconsider the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act otherwise known as the DREAM Act.

As you know, it was introduced early in 2001 and a new version of it was introduced on May 11, 2011. But as election time is approaching, Mitt Romney, who I believe is in the lead now for the republican nomination, has stated that if the DREAM Act were to come upon his desk, he would pass it on. As a result I look to you and others for support.

The Dream Act, I believe, will bring a lot of success to this nation and also hope to those undocumented immigrants who want to receive proper education and to serve in the military in this country. It will help save money in areas such as public health and benefits, as well as increase tax revenues resulting from higher incomes. It will reduce the dropout rate. With this law, students would be eligible to hold positions such as a teacher, a nurse, and a service employer, which are some positions that are in demand. It will help universities by increasing School revenues, as these new students will pay school tuitions just like regular students do. Lastly, it will help keep those many gifted and talented individuals in this country (www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/dreamact). So many wonderful and creative ideas would be possible if this act were to pass. One of these individuals could be the next great artist, writer, or engineer of our time.

It just hurts me that there are so many kids out there who want to make a difference, but their hopes are cut short because they are undocumented. I know that they may have entered illegally and that everyone is worried for the country's safety but you and I can agree that the majority of undocumented citizens don't mean any harm. All they want is to make a better life for themselves and their families. As we all know, America has many needs that are abundant such as a wide range of education, better healthcare, medicine, and a variety of jobs.

All I'm asking is for you to spread the word about the DREAM Act. Tell your fellow secretaries and even President Obama about it and even convince those who are opposed to this Act. You and I would agree that this would solve a lot of financial and economic issues since you stated that it will allow "these young people to live up to their fullest potential and contribute to the economic growth to our country" (www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/12/01/get-facts-dream-act).

I apologize if I sounded a bit desperate in my letter, but I know that you're for the DREAM act and I hope you can spread the message to others so we can see this type of great change take place. I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Michelle

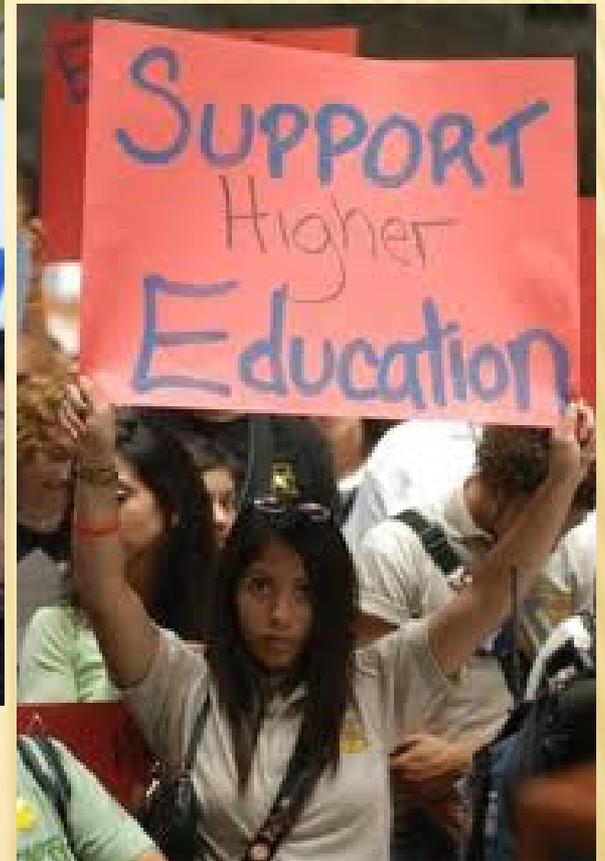
Works Cited

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<<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/dreamact>>.

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THE DREAM ACT

Michelle and Gustavo

WHAT IS THE DREAM ACT?

- ❖ Stands for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors.
- ❖ Is a law or legislation that will give students, specifically undocumented immigrants who have grown up in the United States, legal status which will enable them to receive higher education in College or Serve in the military.

WHEN DID THE DREAM ACT HAPPEN?

- ❖ Introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2001.
- ❖ Was reintroduced on May 11, 2011 by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.



QUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ Proof of having arrived in the United States before 16
- ❖ Must have proof of residence in the United States for at least 5 years
- ❖ Must have graduated from an American High School, received a GED and have been accepted to an institution of higher education (ex. College)
- ❖ Must be between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of bill enactment
- ❖ Be of “good moral character”

BENEFITS

- ❖ It will help the economy: Students can earn higher wages, have high paying jobs which encourage them to open bank accounts buy homes and start businesses.
- ❖ It will save taxpayers money since an immigrant having acquired an academic degree and a high paying job can contribute to taxes and welfare.
- ❖ Reduce the Drop out rate since it creates a strong incentive for immigrant students to stay in school.
- ❖ It will help Universities: School revenues would increase as students who wouldn't normally participate in college pay tuition.
- ❖ Aid military recruiting by finding new recruits.
- ❖ Keep talented and gifted students in the U.S.

SUPPORTERS

- ❖ National Education Association
- ❖ National Parent Teacher Association
- ❖ National Association for College Admissions Counseling
- ❖ American Federation of Teachers
- ❖ United Methodist Church
- ❖ Newspapers such as the Washington Post, Boston Globe, and Los Angeles Times
- ❖ Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
- ❖ Microsoft



WHY WE CHOSE THE DREAM ACT?

- ❖ Aid the US by bringing in new contributions.
- ❖ Immigrants deserve to have a chance at life in the U.S and a chance to show their potential.
- ❖ America is the land filled with opportunity and people deserve to find it.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 2012

Dear Gustavo:

Thank you for writing. I have heard from many Americans concerned about immigration, and I appreciate your perspective.

Americans are rightly frustrated with our Nation's broken immigration system, and I share that frustration. We need an immigration system that meets America's 21st century economic and security needs, and that can only be achieved by putting politics aside and coming together to develop a comprehensive solution that continues to secure our borders, holds businesses responsible for who they hire, strengthens our economic competitiveness, and requires undocumented immigrants to get right with the law. That is how we can reaffirm our heritage as a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws.

My Administration has invested an unprecedented amount of resources, technology, and manpower to secure our borders, and our efforts are producing real results. Today, our Southern border is more secure than ever with more law enforcement personnel working along it than at any time in American history. Along with significant reductions in the number of people trying to cross the border illegally, crime rates along the border are down, and we have seized more illegal guns, cash, and drugs than in years past. In addition to doing what is necessary to secure our borders, my Administration is taking action against employers who knowingly exploit people and break the law, and criminal immigrants who pose a threat to the safety of American communities.

I remain deeply committed to working in a bipartisan way to enact immigration reform that restores accountability and responsibility to our broken immigration system. The Federal Government has the responsibility to continue to secure our borders. Those immigrants who are here illegally have a responsibility to pay taxes, pay a fine, learn English, and undergo background checks before they can be considered for legalization. At the same time, we need to provide businesses a legal way to hire the workers they rely on, and a path for those workers to earn legal status. Stopping illegal immigration also depends upon reforming our outdated system of legal immigration. We should make it easier for the best and brightest immigrants to

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stay here and help create jobs in America. The law should also stop punishing young people who were brought to this country illegally as children by giving them a chance to stay and earn a legal status if they pursue higher education or serve in our military.

By creating a 21st century immigration system that is true to our principles, our Nation will remain a land of opportunity, prosperity, and freedom for all. To learn more about my Administration's efforts regarding immigration, or to read our Blueprint for Immigration Reform, please visit: www.WhiteHouse.gov/issues/immigration.

For additional information and resources on current immigration and enforcement efforts, I encourage you to visit www.dhs.gov or call 1-800-375-5283.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".