

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (DREAM) ACT, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL, AND THE ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN IMMIGRANT YOUTHS WHO ARE COLLEGE BOUND AND ARE LONG TERM UNITED STATES RESIDENTS AND PERMIT STATES TO DETERMINE STATE RESIDENCY FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

WHEREAS:

- A. Each year 65,000 undocumented students, who have lived in the United States for over five years, graduate from American high schools.
- B. These students face overwhelming obstacles in accessing higher education due to their immigration status, which makes them ineligible for federal financial aid and requires them to pay out-of-state tuition for those attending state universities despite their long-term residency within the country.
- C. Many of these children reside in Lane County and attend public schools. However, many of them drop out of high school, and are discouraged from studying because they see no incentive in pursuing higher education due to barriers to access.
- D. There are approximately 2 million children who were born outside of the U.S. raised and educated in this country with no legal status, hold American values, know only the United States as home, and have the same dreams, goals and aspirations as other American children.
- E. These children came to the United States due to their parents' actions and did not take part in any decision to circumvent the immigration laws of this country.
- F. Undocumented immigrants make vital contributions to the economic stability and cultural richness of the United States, yet remain vulnerable to exportation, victimization and stigmatization as long as they are denied legal immigration status and meaningful access to higher education.
- G. The DREAM Act is a bipartisan legislation effort to address this problem, supported by Senators Merkley and Wyden and co-sponsored by Congressman Blumenauer and Wu.
- H. The United States Supreme Court has determined that every state has a constitutional obligation to provide free public primary and secondary education to all children residing within their borders regardless of their immigration status.
- I. Federal standards and accountability requirements imposed on elementary and secondary education institutions necessarily entail a federal commitment to education, including the assurance of meaningful access to higher education.
- J. A high school diploma and the lack of legal immigration status condemn undocumented students to a life of underemployment, instability and unfulfilled potential.
- K. Access to higher education will allow these students to break the bonds of poverty, to raise the level of esteem in which they are held by our society

- and make a full contribution to our country's civic, political and economic well-being.
- L. The Development, Relief, And Education For Alien Minors (DREAM) Act would remedy this situation by allowing undocumented students who have lived in the United States for at least five years, and have graduated high school or received a graduate equivalency diploma (GED), to legalize their immigration status, thereby making them eligible for federal financial aid, and allow states to consider these students as state residents for tuition purposes at state universities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Democratic Party Of Lane County fully supports the passage of the DREAM Act.

The Democratic Party Of Lane County urges Oregon Senators and Oregon members of the House of Representatives to support, co-sign and vote for the DREAM Act.