

## THE DREAM ACT:

### Strengthening our nation through enhanced opportunities for hard-working and talented youth

*The DREAM Act will strengthen our nation's economic and civic life by enabling thousands of hard-working and talented immigrant youth to pursue important educational opportunities or a military career.*

- Each year about 65,000 DREAM Act eligible students graduate from high school, only to realize that their hard work and academic achievement can go no further. These students have made stellar accomplishments in our education system, yet they cannot continue their achievements in college, the military, or trade schools. These missed opportunities hurt our youth and create a loss to America's workforce and society.
- The DREAM Act helps students whose undocumented status is no fault of their own.
- These youth were brought to the United States as children and have since grown up in our communities, stayed in school, and consider the United States their home. In many cases, there is no other country they can call home.
- Some of the nation's best and brightest students face a bleak future, because their immigration status prevents them from pursuing educational and employment opportunities. Passing the DREAM Act will provide deserved opportunities for thousands of young people.
- The DREAM Act allows the U.S. to benefit from the economic and social contributions of immigrant youth. The benefits would extend to our economy through a larger tax base resulting from a better educated and more productive population. We have invested in the elementary and secondary education of these students and should allow them to become a part of our economy and continue with their education.

- The DREAM Act would help the United States compete in the global economy. Those individuals that will benefit from the DREAM Act are precisely the individuals that we want in our country—they include honor roll students, star athletes, talented artists, and aspiring engineers, doctors and entrepreneurs. With a change in our immigration laws, we could add thousands of talented, motivated, multilingual and multicultural people into our workforce and military.
- The DREAM Act will benefit our country and local communities. This act will help hardworking and skilled youth take the next steps in their path to professional and civic development. These students, already part of our community, will be able to contribute to the economic vitality of the nation.
- The DREAM Act would be greatly beneficial to the military, by expanding the opportunity to serve to hundreds of thousands of high-quality people who would bring much needed translation and cultural expertise to our armed forces.
- The DREAM Act has long enjoyed the support of both Democrats and Republicans. Seven Republican Senator currently in office have previously supported the bill. There is no reason why it should not receive that same kind of bipartisan support today.
- The DREAM Act is supported by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. They understand that passage of the DREAM Act will help strengthen our military, meet educational goals for our nation and provide a firm but fair way to address the immigration situation of children brought to the United States at a young age so that the nation can dedicate their enforcement resources to those who pose a threat to our country.