



SUPPORTS

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S2378 Peralta /A2597 Moya New York State Dream Act

Purpose:

To increase college access for undocumented immigrant students in New York State.

Bill Actions:

Grants access to financial aid, opportunity programs, student loans and New York's 529 college savings program for qualifying undocumented immigrant young adults. Creates a privately funded NYS Dream Fund to provide scholarships to college bound children who are the children of immigrants, and establishes a NYS Dream Fund Commission to administer the NYS Dream Fund.

Statement of Support:

New York is a city of immigrants, and CUNY is their university. In fact, immigrants make up 41% of CUNY's student body. They contribute to the economy, the life and culture of our state; they deserve the chance at a better life that CUNY has to offer, regardless of their immigration status.

A decade ago the state extended access to a college education to undocumented students with New York high school diplomas or GEDs by allowing them to pay in-state tuition rates at CUNY and SUNY. An estimated 4,500 undocumented students are now able to attend CUNY because of this historic reform. Undocumented students, however, are barred from financial aid programs such as state Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), from opportunity programs like Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge and College Discovery and from the State's 529 college savings plan.

Like the majority of CUNY students, undocumented students tend to come from families of very modest means. With \$1,500 in tuition hikes scheduled through 2015 and no access to financial aid, many low-income undocumented students may have to abandon their dreams of a college education and drop out of CUNY. Many others may never apply to college at all.

Lost opportunity for undocumented students means lost tax revenue and lost economic vitality for the State. The State, on average, gets about \$1,000 more a year in taxes from a person who has a two-year degree and about \$3,900 more from a person with a four-year degree when compared to a high school graduate. Over a work-life, workers with Associate's degrees earn 24% than workers with only a high school diploma. For Bachelor's degrees, it's 66% more.

PSC STRONGLY URGES ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION.

Wr: 2/12/13

By: FC