



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The United States of America is a land of opportunity where the "American Dream" is promised to all those who work for it; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Educational achievement levels in neighborhoods and schools predominantly of color throughout the State of Illinois and the nation maintain at below-average levels; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Undocumented students are currently faced with the grim reality that even if they were to graduate from a college or university, their immigration status would impede them from pursuing most types of professional-level work, for which they studied; and

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Illinois Senator Richard Durbin was a lead co-sponsor of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act in 2003 and the lead sponsor of S. 2075 in 2005; and

14

15

16

17

WHEREAS, Illinois Senator Barack Obama is a co-sponsor of the 2005 DREAM Act; and

18

19

WHEREAS, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich recently recognized the importance of the immigrant community, of which undocumented students make up a significant segment, by signing into law the New Americans Immigrant Policy Council which seeks to secure equal rights for immigrants throughout the State of Illinois; and

20

21

22

23

24

25

WHEREAS, Approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate every year from high schools across the country while facing the reality that they are not eligible for federal student financial aid, a majority of public and private scholarships, or study outside of the State due to their

26

27

28

29

1 immigration status; and

2 WHEREAS, Undocumented students are more likely to drop out  
3 of high school before graduating because of their immigration  
4 status and associated barriers to higher education; and

5 WHEREAS, The economic and societal costs of high drop-out  
6 rates cost United States taxpayers and the economy billions of  
7 dollars a year and wreak havoc on the fabric of families and  
8 the communities they live in; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States, as a whole, stands to benefit  
10 from investing in hard-working undocumented students who are  
11 hoping to benefit from a higher education to reach their full  
12 potential; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we urge the United States government to immediately approve the  
16 Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act  
17 of 2005 (S. 2075); and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we recognize that hard-working undocumented  
19 students should not be unjustly punished by our immigration  
20 laws for the decisions their parents made; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we recognize the role that public education  
22 has on the lives of undocumented students, and we also urge the  
23 Chicago Public Schools system to actively support the passage  
24 of the DREAM Act in order to facilitate its work of stemming  
25 the drop-out rates within its system; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent  
27 to George W. Bush, President of the United States, the Chicago  
28 Board of Education, and the members of the Illinois  
29 Congressional delegation.