



## THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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November 30, 2010

TO: The Mayor

FROM: Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran".

RE: The DREAM Act

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have both said they plan to move the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act during the lame duck session, possibly in the next few days. The White House strongly supports passage of the bill; Intergovernmental Affairs Director Cecilia Munoz referred to this as “an all hands on deck kind of moment” during a conference call yesterday afternoon. The Conference of Mayors adopted policy calling on Congress to pass the DREAM Act at our 2009 annual meeting in Providence. **I write today to ask you to contact members of your delegation as soon as possible and urge them to support the DREAM Act when it comes up for a vote.**

The DREAM Act, which has bipartisan support, is intended to address the situation faced by young people who were brought to the United States years ago as undocumented immigrant children and who have since grown up here, stayed in school, and kept out of trouble – about 65,000 students each year. They are young people who have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives, but face unique barriers to higher education, are unable to work legally in the U.S., and often live in constant fear of detection by immigration authorities.

The DREAM Act would enact two major changes in current law by:

- Permitting most students with good moral character who came to the U.S. at age 15 or younger at least five years before the date of the bill’s enactment to apply for temporary legal status and to eventually obtain permanent status and become eligible for U.S. citizenship if they go to college or serve in the U.S. military; and
- Eliminating a federal provision that penalizes states that provide in-state tuition without regard to immigration status.

The DREAM Act also would have a beneficial effect on the country by allowing these students to attend and graduate from college, hold jobs in the U.S., and pay taxes. It would provide an opportunity for them to live up to their full potential and make greater contributions to the U.S. economy and society.

A lot of information on the DREAM Act is available on the National Immigration Law Center Web site at <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/dream/index.htm#wu>. If you have any questions, please contact Laura DeKoven Waxman, the Conference’s Director of Public Safety, at [lwaxman@usmayors.org](mailto:lwaxman@usmayors.org). Also, if you send letters of support to your delegation, please email copies to Laura. Thanks for your help on this important matter.