



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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November 30, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reid:

I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to indicate our strong support for the DREAM Act and to urge passage of the bill during the lame duck session.

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 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.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the DREAM Act last year. We urge Congress to similarly act in a bipartisan manner and pass this important legislation this year.

Sincerely,

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

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director