



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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MICHAEL A. NUTTER
Mayor

September 17, 2010

The Honorable Robert P. Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:


I am writing to express my support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (the DREAM Act), which, as you know, would provide immigrant youth who grew up in the United States the opportunity to legalize their status through education or military service. Passing the DREAM Act would bring hope to thousands of undocumented youth living in this country and ultimately strengthen our economy.

Every year, thousands of students graduate from high school in the United States and cannot obtain student loans and grants that would enable them to continue their education because they are undocumented residents. Many would like to go on to college, but cannot because of their status. Undocumented young adults are also prohibited from joining the military. They cannot get a valid driver's license. Many end up in low-wage, dead-end jobs.

I have set ambitious education attainment goals for the City of Philadelphia, knowing that a skilled workforce is necessary for the city's economic future. Philadelphia and the surrounding counties will not continue to thrive unless more of our residents go to college—including undocumented children who currently have no pathway to citizenship. The DREAM Act would benefit Philadelphia and the rest of Pennsylvania by providing young people with the tools needed to become citizens, go to college or enlist in the military and achieve the American dream. In the current economic situation, we cannot afford to have young people who want to attend college and or serve the nation they grew up in be barred from doing so.

I am encouraged by Senator Harry Reid's pledge this week to bring up the DREAM Act as an amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill and ask that you vote in favor of passage. Thousands of would-be college students and I will be forever grateful for your leadership.

Sincerely,


Michael Nutter
Mayor