



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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MICHAEL A. NUTTER
Mayor

September 17, 2010

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

I am writing to express my support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (the DREAM Act), which, as a co-sponsor of the bill 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.

As you know, 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.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue so far, Senator. I hope that you will continue to support the bill when it makes it way to the Senate floor next week. Thousands of would-be college students and I would be forever grateful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Nutter".

Michael Nutter
Mayor