



DREAM Team Los Angeles

dreamactivist.org

dreamact2009.com

DREAM Act

Economic Prosperity for America



2009

Table of Contents

DREAM Act Basic Information

2009 Co-Sponsors U.S. Senate and House of the 111th Congress

DREAM Act History

DREAM Act Nationwide and Statewide Endorsements

DREAM Act and the Economy

DREAM Act and CIR

DREAM Act Current Support

DREAM Act: Basic Information

■ What is the DREAM Act?

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is bipartisan legislation that addresses 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.

■ Why is the DREAM Act needed?

Each year about 65,000 U.S.-raised students who would qualify for the DREAM Act's benefits graduate from high school. These include honor roll students, star athletes, talented artists, homecoming queens, and aspiring teachers, doctors, and U.S. soldiers. They are young people who have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives and desire only to call this country their home. Even though they were brought to the U.S. years ago as children, they 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.

Our immigration law currently has no mechanism to consider the special equities and circumstances of such students. The DREAM Act would eliminate this flaw. It is un-American to indefinitely and irremediably punish them for decisions made by adults many years ago. By enacting the DREAM Act, Congress would legally recognize what is de facto true: these young people belong here.

What is the DREAM Act's current status?

The DREAM Act was reintroduced in the House and Senate on March 26, 2009. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Richard Lugar (R-IN), and in the House by Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), along with the following original cosponsors.

Support for the DREAM Act has grown each year since it was first introduced in 2001 during the 107th Congress. In past years it has garnered 48 Senate cosponsors and more than 152 Republican and Democratic House cosponsors, more than one-third of the House. It has twice passed the Senate Judiciary Committee in bipartisan fashion, by a 16-3 vote in the 2003-04 108th Congress, and again in 2006 by a voice vote without dissent as an amendment to the comprehensive immigration reform bill. In May 2006, the DREAM Act passed the full Senate as part of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (S. 2611). On October 24, 2007, in a 52-44 vote in the Senate, the DREAM Act (S. 2205) fell just 8 votes shy— with four senators absent for the vote — of the 60 votes necessary to proceed with debate on the bill.

The DREAM Act continues to attract bipartisan support and now, for the first time, also enjoys the strong backing of the House and Senate leadership, all of the relevant committee chairs, and President Obama.

DREAM ACT 2009 Co-Sponsors U.S. Senate and House of the 111th Congress

Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act 2009

S. 729 and H. R 1751

Senate Co-sponsors:

Feingold, Russell D. [WI] – 3/26/2009

**Kennedy, Edward M. [MA] –
3/26/2009**

Leahy, Patrick J. [VT] – 3/26/2009

Lieberman, Joseph I. [CT] – 3/26/2009

Lugar, Richard G. [IN] – 3/26/2009

Martinez, Mel [FL] – 3/26/2009

Reid, Harry [NV] – 3/26/2009

Bingaman, Jeff [NM] – 3/30/2009

Boxer, Barbara [CA] – 3/30/2009

Dodd, Christopher J. [CT] – 3/30/2009

Feinstein, Dianne [CA] – 3/30/2009

**Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [NY] –
3/31/2009**

Harkin, Tom [IA] – 3/31/2009

Kerry, John F. [MA] – 3/30/2009

Menendez, Robert [NJ] – 3/30/2009

Murray, Patty [WA] – 3/30/2009

Nelson, Bill [FL] – 3/30/2009

Whitehouse, Sheldon [RI] – 3/30/2009

Schumer, Charles E. [NY] – 4/2/2009

Cantwell, Maria [WA] – 4/22/2009

Udall, Mark [CO] – 4/29/2009

Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] – 6/25/2009

House of Representative Co-Sponsors:

Pastor, Ed [AZ-4] – 4/27/2009
Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-7] – 3/31/2009
Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6] – 4/22/2009
Miller, George [CA-7] – 5/14/2009
Lee, Barbara [CA-9] – 4/21/2009
Stark, Fortney Pete [CA-13] –
4/22/2009
Eshoo, Anna G. [CA-14] – 4/21/2009
Honda, Michael M. [CA-15] –
5/13/2009
Lofgren, Zoe [CA-16] – 3/26/2009
Farr, Sam [CA-17] – 3/31/2009
Nunes, Devin [CA-21] – 3/26/2009
Capps, Lois [CA-23] – 3/31/2009
Schiff, Adam B. [CA-29] – 6/9/2009
Waxman, Henry A. [CA-30] –
5/14/2009
Watson, Diane E. [CA-33] – 5/7/2009
Roybal-Allard, Lucille [CA-34] –
Waters, Maxine [CA-35] – 6/23/2009
Harman, Jane [CA-36] – 5/7/2009
Sanchez, Linda T. [CA-39] – 3/31/2009
Filner, Bob [CA-51] – 3/31/2009
Davis, Susan A. [CA-53] – 4/21/2009
Polis, Jared [CO-2] – 3/26/2009
DeLauro, Rosa L. [CT-3] – 5/14/2009
Castor, Kathy [FL-11] – 4/30/2009
Meek, Kendrick B. [FL-17] – 4/22/2009
Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [FL-18] –
3/26/2009
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [FL-20] –
Diaz-Balart, Lincoln [FL-21] –
3/26/2009
Diaz-Balart, Mario [FL-25] – 3/26/2009
Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. [IL-2] – 5/5/2009
Quigley, Mike [IL-5] – 4/30/2009
Davis, Danny K. [IL-7] – 5/7/2009
Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9] –
4/21/2009
Carson, Andre [IN-7] – 4/22/2009
Cao, Anh “Joseph” [LA-2] – 3/26/2009
Olver, John W. [MA-1] – 5/7/2009
McGovern, James P. [MA-3] –
6/19/2009
Frank, Barney [MA-4] – 6/19/2009

Markey, Edward J. [MA-7] – 6/8/2009
Lynch, Stephen F. [MA-9] – 6/25/2009
Cummings, Elijah E. [MD-7] – 6/2/2009
Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14] – 3/26/2009
Ellison, Keith [MN-5] – 6/2/2009
Clay, Wm. Lacy [MO-1] – 5/7/2009
Cleaver, Emanuel [MO-5] –
4/21/2009
Israel, Steve [NY-2] – 4/21/2009
McCarthy, Carolyn [NY-4] – 3/31/2009
Ackerman, Gary L. [NY-5] – 3/31/2009
Meeks, Gregory W. [NY-6] – 5/20/2009
Crowley, Joseph [NY-7] – 5/7/2009
Nadler, Jerrold [NY-8] – 6/23/2009
Weiner, Anthony D. [NY-9] – 4/21/2009
Townsend, Edolphus [NY-10] – 5/19/2009
Clarke, Yvette D. [NY-11] – 5/7/2009
Maloney, Carolyn B. [NY-14] –
6/23/2009
Serrano, Jose E. [NY-16] – 4/21/2009
Engel, Eliot L. [NY-17] – 3/31/2009
Lowey, Nita M. [NY-18] – 5/20/2009
Maffei, Daniel B. [NY-25] – 5/20/2009
Berkley, Shelley [NV-1] – 6/10/2009
Wu, David [OR-1] – 4/22/2009
Blumenauer, Earl [OR-3] – 6/23/2009
Fattah, Chaka [PA-2] – 4/21/2009
Kennedy, Patrick J. [RI-1] – 5/7/2009
Langevin, James R. [RI-2] – 5/7/2009
Hinojosa, Ruben [TX-15] – 3/31/2009
Reyes, Silvestre [TX-16] – 4/23/2009
Jackson-Lee, Sheila [TX-18] – 6/2/2009
Gonzalez, Charles A. [TX-20] –
3/31/2009
Rodriguez, Ciro D. [TX-23] – 6/10/2009
Ortiz, Solomon P. [TX-27] – 4/21/2009
Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30]–
4/30/2009
Larsen, Rick [WA-2] – 6/19/2009
McDermott, Jim [WA-7] – 6/2/2009
Smith, Adam [WA-9] – 6/23/2009
Moore, Gwen [WI-4] – 4/30/2009
Rothman, Steven R. [NJ-9] – 5/20/2009
Holt, Rush D. [NJ-12] – 4/21/2009

DREAM Act: Summary

The DREAM Act is bipartisan legislation that addresses the tragedy of young people who grew up in the United States and have graduated from our high schools, but whose future is circumscribed by our current immigration laws. Under current law, these young people generally derive their immigration status solely from their parents, and if their parents are undocumented or in immigration limbo, most have no mechanism to obtain legal residency, even if they have lived most of their lives here in the U.S. The DREAM Act would provide such a mechanism for those who are able to meet certain conditions.

The latest version of the DREAM Act, also known as the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (S. 729), was introduced on March 26, 2009, by Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) in the Senate. In the House of Representatives, the bill is called the American Dream Act (H.R. 1751), and it was introduced that same day by Howard Berman (D-CA), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA).

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

- **Permit certain immigrant students who have grown up in the U.S. 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**
- **Eliminate a federal provision that penalizes states that provide in-state tuition without regard to immigration status.**

If enacted, the DREAM Act would have a life-changing impact on the students who qualify, dramatically increasing their average future earnings—and consequently the amount of taxes they would pay—while significantly reducing criminal justice and social services costs to taxpayers.

Key Features of the DREAM Act 2009

■ Path to legal residency: Who would qualify?

Under the DREAM Act, 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 would qualify for *conditional permanent resident status* upon acceptance to college, graduation from a U.S. high school, or being awarded a GED in the U.S. Students would not qualify for this relief if they had committed crimes, were a security risk, or were inadmissible or removable on certain other grounds. The Senate bill contains an additional requirement that the student be under age 35.

■ Conditional permanent resident status

Conditional permanent resident status would be similar to lawful permanent resident status, except that it would be awarded for a limited duration—six years under normal circumstances— instead of indefinitely.

Students with conditional permanent resident status would be able to work, drive, go to school, and otherwise participate normally in day-to-day activities on the same terms as other Americans, except that generally they would not be able to travel abroad for lengthy periods and they would not be eligible for Pell Grants or certain other federal financial aid grants. They would, however, be eligible for federal work study and student loans, and states would not be restricted from providing their own financial aid to these students. Time spent by young people in conditional permanent resident status would count towards the residency requirements for naturalization.

■ Requirements to lift the condition and obtain regular lawful permanent resident status

At the end of the conditional period, unrestricted lawful permanent resident status would be granted if, during the conditional period, the immigrant has maintained good moral character, avoided lengthy trips abroad, and met at least one of the following criteria:

- **Graduated from a two-year college or certain vocational colleges, or studied for at least two years toward a B.A. or higher degree, or**
- **Served in the U.S. armed forces for at least two years.**

The six-year time period for meeting these requirements would be extendable upon a showing of good cause, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security would be empowered to waive the requirements altogether if compelling reasons, such as disability, prevent their completion and if removal of the student would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to the student or to the student's spouse, parent or child.

■ In-state tuition: Restore state option

The DREAM Act would also repeal section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), which currently discourages states from providing in-state tuition or other higher education benefits without regard to immigration status. Under section 505, states that provide a higher education benefit based on residency to undocumented immigrants must provide the same benefit to U.S. citizens in the same circumstances, regardless of their state of residence.

Since section 505 became law, ten states have enacted laws permitting anyone, including undocumented immigrants, who attended and graduated from high school in the state to pay the in-state rate at public colleges and universities. The ten states are Texas, California, Utah, Washington, New York, Oklahoma, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, and Nebraska. These states all pay the section 505 penalty by providing the same in-state discount rate to current residents of other states who previously went to high school and graduated in the state. The DREAM Act would repeal this penalty. This would not require states to provide in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants, but rather would restore this decision to the states without encumbrance.

Why Enactment of the DREAM Act Would Aid the Ailing Economy and Generate Tax Revenues

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is bipartisan legislation that addresses 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.

Support for the DREAM Act has grown each year since it was first introduced in 2001. For the first time, the DREAM Act also enjoys the strong backing of the House and Senate leadership, all of the relevant committee chairs, and President Obama.

■ Why is the DREAM Act needed?

Each year about 65,000 U.S.-raised students who would qualify for the DREAM Act's benefits graduate from high school. These include honor roll students, star athletes, talented artists, homecoming queens, and aspiring teachers, doctors, and U.S. soldiers. They are young people who have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives and desire only to call this country their home. Even though they were brought to the U.S. years ago as children, they 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 will prepare the country for a new, global economy.

Today's global economy depends on the creation, acquisition, distribution, and use of knowledge, and this requires an educated and skilled population. Passage of the DREAM Act would add thousands of talented, motivated, multilingual and multicultural people into our workforce.

■ Passage of the DREAM Act will increase tax revenues for cash-strapped federal, state, and local governments.

Mexican immigrant woman who graduates from college will pay \$5,300 more in taxes and cost \$3,900 less in government expenses each year than if she had dropped out of high school. This amounts to an annual fiscal benefit of over \$9,000 per person every year, money that can be used to pay for the education of others.

■ The DREAM Act is a stimulus policy.

As President Obama said in his address to Congress, creating an educated workforce will stimulate our economy, increase productivity, and help the U.S. compete in the global economy. Students who would benefit from the DREAM Act are our future teachers, doctors, nurses, and lawyers. The DREAM Act will allow thousands of immigrant students to access higher education and maximize their contributions to our economy and communities.

■ The DREAM Act is a great return on money we have already invested.

The students who would benefit under the DREAM Act have been raised and educated in the U.S. State and local taxpayers have already invested in the education of these children in elementary and secondary school and deserve to get a return on their investment.

■ Legalized immigrant youth would contribute significantly to the Social Security system.

The National Foundation for American Policy calculated that "over the next 50 years, new legal immigrants entering the United States will provide a net benefit of \$407 billion in present value to America's Social Security system."

DREAM Act & Comprehensive Immigration Reform

The DREAM Act will allow undocumented youth to contribute to the economy. Providing educational access to undocumented immigrant youth would contribute to the infrastructure needed to stimulate the economy. Our country has already invested considerable resources in educating immigrant children from Kindergarten through 12th grade. In order for this investment to be realized, these immigrant youth should be allowed to pursue a college education, and to legally work and contribute to our society.

The DREAM Act addresses issues of educational access, economic development and fairness. Most Americans acknowledge hard work and determination, and believe that these actions should be rewarded. Most do not favor punishing children for an immigration decision over which they had no control.

The DREAM Act challenges the idea that immigrants are a drain on society. Immigrants with a college degree contribute substantially more in taxes and are much less likely to receive any type of government assistance. Educated immigrant youth could play an active role in supporting their families, their communities, and in assisting with the economic recovery.

The DREAM Act rewards immigrant youth who serve their country in the uniformed services with legal status.

- **The DREAM Act supports Comprehensive Immigration Reform.**

The DREAM Act helps pave the way for the passage of CIR by highlighting a group of immigrants that promote a positive image of successful immigrant integration, and who are strong advocates for CIR. DREAM Act students are compelling advocates of CIR, and would be able to demonstrate through their own lives the benefits of legalization. As legal residents who could emerge from the shadows, they would be a talented, organized force for CIR.

DREAM Act students highlight the diversity of cultures affected by immigration reform. DREAM students come from Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. They are capable of generating broad support from various communities representing diverse ethnic, racial, and religious groups.

Member of Congress who currently do not support CIR have expressed support for the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act has the most bipartisan support in Congress of any immigration reform proposal, and could help pave the ground for broadening support for CIR. Discussion about the DREAM Act would encourage members of Congress to obtain a deeper understanding of immigration, and would help project a human face on this issue.

The DREAM Act mobilizes support from constituents who traditionally have not been invested in CIR. National educational organizations, administrators, teachers, and students have embraced the DREAM Act as an educational issue, and have advocated forcefully for its passage. Business and religious groups have also supported the DREAM Act. This broadens the base of support for CIR, and would encourage more support for CIR following a victory for the DREAM Act.

WE CAN'T WAIT

We must legalize these youth immediately. The prospects for CIR would be worse in 2010 during a Congressional election year. Immigrant youth throughout the country are being discouraged from attending college. Many are being forced into the underground labor market, wasting a generation of talent and potential.

President Barack Obama was a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act while in the U.S. Senate, and has pledged to sign it as President.