



BENEFITS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DREAM ACT

The Pennsylvania Dream Act will provide the opportunity for undocumented students who have graduated from high school in Pennsylvania, or have a GED certificate, to pay in-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth. The PA Dream Act will improve college access for undocumented youth and allow them to give back to the state they grew up in.

The PA Dream Act has bipartisan support and shows the welcoming and inclusive spirit of Pennsylvania.

- **The PA Dream Act provides a way for hardworking students to continue their education.** The Act helps undocumented youth who have attended Pennsylvania high schools and provides an incentive for them to finish high school and pursue higher education.
- **Dream Acts with broad bipartisan support already exist in 20 states, and they have provided economic benefits to public colleges.** Dream Acts do not provide free tuition; they simply allow undocumented students who have lived in a state for years to pay in-state tuition rates. These Acts increase college revenues because they enable students who otherwise would not be able to afford college to enroll at the in-state tuition rate.
 - **Dream Acts increase revenue for public institutions of higher education.** A 2011 review of studies found that in-state tuition policies correlated with a 31% increase in college enrollments among undocumented students. Studies in Massachusetts and Texas show net gains in tuition revenue.
- **Dream Acts have been found to be beneficial for state economies in the long-term.** A Maryland study found that for each annual Maryland Dream Act cohort, the net long-term economic benefit to state, local, and federal governments would equal \$24.6 million. Studies in Colorado, Hawaii, New Jersey, and New York also predicted that tax revenues would rise as a result of Dream Acts.
- **The students affected are already here and their families contribute to Pennsylvania's economy.** In 2010 alone, families headed by unauthorized immigrants paid approximately \$135 million in Pennsylvania state and local taxes. The PA Dream Act would maximize students' potential to contribute back to society by becoming productive taxpayers.
- **Pennsylvania needs to encourage population growth, particularly among the young cohorts affected by the Dream Act.** Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in percentage of the population age 65 and over. Our rate of growth is well below the national average. If Pennsylvania is going to stay economically competitive, it must implement public policies that welcome young families – many of which are immigrants – to the Commonwealth.
- **Many students who would benefit from this bill were brought here at young ages, may not even know their status, and consider Pennsylvania their home.** Every year, approximately 800 undocumented youth graduate from Pennsylvania high schools without the same opportunities as their classmates. Many of these students have lived in our state longer than new residents who relocated two or three years ago from another state. Demanding that immigrant students return to a country they may not know or remember is unfair, unrealistic, and encourages them to seek low-wage, low-skill labor opportunities.
- **The Dream Act is timely, as federal policy now provides many youth with lawful presence.** Since August 2012, hundreds of thousands of youth and young adults have enrolled in the new federal program Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which allows these young adults who finished high school or GED access to employment authorization. Providing access to affordable higher education will ensure these young adults maximize their skills and capacities as they participate in the workforce and contribute to Pennsylvania.