

### Hot Topic

The Hot topic that I will be focusing on is the controversial issue of undocumented students receiving financial aid. It is very clear with a national debt of 14trillion dollars we come to the conclusion that there must be some federal cuts. The education system has received some huge blows which caused universities, and many community colleges to raise their tuition cost. Since America is the land of dreams and opportunities everyone who resides here whether illegal or citizen, deserves assistance on higher education; the reality of this matter is that we lack Cal Grant funds. Therefore the thought of supporting the Dream Act is acceptable to an extent, but considering the scarce funds we have it is getting rather difficult for U.S student to receive financial assistance already. As a result the idea of helping undocumented students pay for college shows our generosity has a country, but the reality is we lack funding for them.

While attending the Forum on October 25, 2011, I actively listen to the four qualified speakers who presented their perspectives upon higher level education in California. Forum speaker Kristin Olsen claimed that “everybody should have a right to attend college in California”♦, but Cal Grant is limited. I began to relate her statement to my own personal experience with undocumented students. During my high school career I witness first hand undocumented students excelling in AP courses, getting involved with school activities, and performing well on standard testing. Undocumented students have many obstacles in their lives that they have to overcome in order to fulfill the American dream of being prosperous. Education for undocumented students is the ultimate ticket to success in this new country, so for this reason Olsen statement about opening education to all who enter our state is well respected.

Ironically many immigrants adventure to America not only to find a better life, but also discover new opportunities for their futures and family. In this situation it is essential that we reevaluate the logical sense of what's the “difference of being an undocumented student vs. being an illegal alien” (Dr. Riggs). For instance it is reasonable to picture an illegal alien as someone who comes to our country without legal documentation. For one thing we know, is that illegal aliens have a known representation of crossing the border to find seasonal employment in factories, or working the unwanted labor of the fields. By the same token it is reasonable to imagine an undocumented student as a individual who is not of American nationality; yet they are known in their communities bringing fourth much ripe fruit to our society. It is safe to say that undocumented students have become integrated into the culture and laws of our country. For example; although an undocumented student doesn't contain natural U.S rights, they still pay sale taxes which brings a year gross net into our county. Allowing these students to attend private or public universities in our country is truly a wise investment. Since America is the land of freedom. We see educated undocumented students as a complete success in the overall intelligence of our country. With that in mind we can also predict that education statistically proves a higher annual income which is a sound tune to the government ears were they can now tax according to the income you make- which ultimately helps with government spending.

California once again has become the spot light of the nation with the recent passing of the California Dream Act issued by Governor Jerry Brown, which brings up the controversial hot topic of immigration. Brown's sympathy towards undocumented students was illustrated when he proclaimed to the press that “all students deserve a higher level of education which sharpens critical thinking skills”. Once again we revisit the faultless meaning of an undocumented student.

Majority of undocumented student have lived in the states for majority of their life, while not obtaining citizenship they should be in a working progress. With the help of financial aid; over 370,000 low-income student homes were helped, so even the unfortunate students could attend college. Without proper documentation regardless of the nationality of the immigrant, it is very difficult to get a decent job. Consequently it is already near impossible for some undocumented students to cover expensive university tuition. This dream Act wishes to provide assistance to undocumented students who have presented three years of a California high school career, and has diligently shown high academic performance. Furthermore it is necessary to know that the undocumented student must be working towards citizenship to achieve this financial award while also showing financial needs.

Ironically looking back at California's recent history with the issue of immigration it comes as a total surprise that the Dream Act has become official. Prop 187 also known as Save our State; was the law that represented the strict enforcement to keep immigration out of California, by preventing illegal's from using health care, public education, and other social services. This sounds very indecisive on California's behalf. Many eyebrows are raised as the people beginning to question the decision the governor has made. Furthermore we see that passing the Dream Act was not a good action considering that California is already in a budgeting crisis. According to the article "California weighs college aid for illegal immigrants"; the profound remarks by Dan Schnur lead us to expect a mighty "growth in the Hispanic culture in the upcoming decades". Generally speaking, it's evident that the minority of this country will eventually become the majority of this country. This is understandable why a politician like Brown would focus on the welfare of the undocumented student. For instance when the undocumented gain their higher level of education, majority will remember brown for what he

has done. Ascertainably the undocumented students will pay homage to Brown's decision when election or important voting time comes.

All in all the hot topic of undocumented students receiving financial aid is the result of the Dream Act recently passed by Gov. Brown. According to the academic journal "Crisis in Higher Ed", Brown proposed a \$1.4-billion in budget cuts to lower the cost of tuition so the inability of California can afford college. With the appropriate budget cuts, more funds can be invested into the colleges which will lower the cost of tuition giving everybody an equal opportunity at earning a higher level of education. In other words if the government gets more involved in the Universities, while cutting down on the tuition cost, then there would be far less individuals opposing the Dream Act because there would be plenty of resources for everybody. John Locke regarded as one of the greatest enlightenment thinkers came up with the widely known idea of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", yet adopted by our founding fathers Thomas Jefferson who wrote this amazing idea into America's declaration of independence. In the novel This I believe; Andrew Sullivan as a writer and commentator states "I believe in a system of government that places liberty at the center of its concerns (233)." This demonstrates how Sullivan honored a country that allowed people to have freedom to chase the desires of their heart, and America was known to be that country. It is very significant that America don't lose our reputation of being a free country to all. I believe that everybody whether undocumented or a citizen should have a right to receive assistance to pay for higher education, only if our government can afford it.

## Work Cited

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