

Dream Act

Everyone should have the opportunity to attend college and be able to access to state financial aid regardless if they consist of proper documentation or not. In the journal, *Serving the Undocumented*, it states that, “though the Central Valley area served by West Hills College serves as a home to numerous migrant workers, only about 100 or so students have the necessary documentation to qualify for CAMP Grants,’ Lewallen says” (3). Illegal immigrants could be big contributors to our society by receiving a higher education, and also they could be an immensely huge influence to this state by proving that they have what it takes to go beyond high school education.

The undocumented immigrants could be big contributors to our society by receiving a higher education. They could improve their education status by not only earning a high school diploma but for achieving a college degree. In *LA Times* it reveals a key phrase that Governor Jerry Brown states that, “going to college is a dream that promises intellectual excitement and creative thinking. The dream Act benefits us all by giving top students a chance to improve their lives and the lives of all of us” (1). Once they have graduated many spectacular business opportunities could cross along their pathway, and even before they graduate. For instance, they could become a doctor and find the cure for cancer, HIV or any other disease that doctors of today are trying to find a cure for. Another is that they could be the world’s next greatest technology inventor, and maybe over ruling both Apple Inc. and Microsoft Window. These are several of

many other great achieving things that they could come up with, but no matter what happens they will receive a much greater amount of pay comparing to a fast food restaurants or working in the field if they just receive a high school diploma.

Even before the illegal immigrants can fulfill their dream of achieving a higher intellectual education and a better job Governor Jerry Brown has a couple requirements, for the Dream Act that he signed, before they receive the state financial aid, which *LA Times* states “students must graduate from a California high school after attending school in the state for at least three years and must affirm that they are in the processes of applying to legalize their immigration status. They also must show financial aid need and academic standards” (1). This could make a great amount of cut back in number to illegal immigrant students trying to receive state financial aid. As they are trying to receive financial aid they would have to be in the process of applying to become citizens so eventually these students will become American citizens making it no different from any other students attending college. Once they have become citizens all rules would imply to them, which the biggest and most complained thing by citizens is that they would pay taxes. With the college education that they receive they would have a well paying job if not a great paying job that when taxes come they as well would have to give a bigger amount to give to the state. Also, they could still give back to the community by donating money or they could attend tutoring classes to help children who are in the need of help with schoolwork and making the community more intelligent.

How could the Dream Act work without financial aid if it is illegal for undocumented immigrants to get a job and those who secretary manage to get one usually get a minimum wage or very low salary, which would be barely enough to live off on.

That would leave them to an impossible way to pay their children's tuition. In *Serving the Undocumented* Dr. Gerardo E. de los Santos points out that, "Undocumented immigrant students in California are eligible to receive only private scholarships that 'aren't' enough to support a very expensive education" (1). Which is true because the majority of the scholarships are not enough to pay a semester. Even if the students applied for a big scholarship like the McDonald's Scholarship and happens to win the scholarship it won't pay for the rest of their three year so much less if they happen to earn three local scholarships it would be enough for a semester. In the website Scholarship.com it states that, "According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education, the average price of a college education has more than tripled over the past twenty years (based on current dollars). The average price of a four-year college has rose to \$18,445 for the same college that students' in 1986-1987 paid \$5,964 for their tuition, room and board" (1). Undocumented students shouldn't be rejected to access financial aid because they could not afford it and because the students didn't come to this country by choice, but because they were forced to by their parents to come along. That shouldn't be a reason why to stop students from studying due to their parents' decision of coming to America to succeed and get better opportunities than their country was offering them. Another good point is that this would bring more competition within students to earn better grades in school, get involved in extra-curricular activities in and out of school, and lastly by serving and helping the community become safer and appropriate for everybody.

I myself am not an illegal immigrant, but I have been raised in a community surrounded by a high percentage of undocumented students. I have a friend who is an undocumented student and just like everyone's assumption you expect him to be struggling through school because of not knowing the language well. I stand incorrect of his knowledge. He is a 4.0, straight A, student who's always reaching further rather than being just satisfied unlike many others that they are satisfied with a passing grade. He studies a lot and makes sure he understands the lecture that he will get upset to see a B on a test or assignment that a teacher given him. He is a very committed person to his community by being involved in is local religious youth group, competitive soccer, and also works on occasional side jobs with his dad. He works tremendously hard in all his activates. He dreams of furthering his education by attending a college but without state financial aid it will be impossible to get into a college due to economic problems. In *Serving the Undocumented* it describes a similar story that, "a high school senior in California has maintained an A average all through grade school. She has numerous extra-curricular activities on her record and dreams of attending UC Berkeley. She applies and is accepted. However, when applying for federal financial aid, she finds out she doesn't qualify and her working-class parents don't have the \$22,000 it will take to pay for a year at Berkeley" (2). This is why state financial aid should be access to the undocumented students. They could really have a strong impact of change on the life of others and not just themselves.

Everyone should have the ability to attend college with financial aid because it would make education more complete and school standards could take a rise. No one should be left out of given help from the government because we are all in general

immigrants to this country but some of our families have been here before others. Illegal immigrants could be big contributors to our society by receiving a higher education, and also they could be an immensely huge influence to this state by proving that they have what it takes to go beyond high school education. This would give a chance for those students who really want to an education and make the world a better place by freely expressing their ideas and knowledge.