

Undocumented Students

We have always been told that education is the pathway to success, to dream big and work hard to achieve what we want in life. This vision has ended for many students after graduating from high school you might ask why? Many students in this country are undocumented and do not qualify for financial aid or scholarships which makes it difficult for them to continue their education. What they envisioned as the “American Dream” now seems far from reality. In a way they are forced to leave behind their education because of their legal and financial status, which is devastating because their hard work and education goes to waste since they cannot continue with it. Not long ago Governor Jerry Brown approved the Dream Act which will take effect in 2013 allowing undocumented students to receive financial aid, but it hasn't been good news to everyone because it has caused a lot of debate among the American society (LA Times).

At the forum “Perspectives in Higher Education” Kristin Olsen commented, that she believed that all students disregarding their legal status should have the opportunity to a higher education (Olsen) I agree with her many undocumented students don't come here by choice they were brought by their parents when they were younger to seek a better future. They weren't born here but over the years they have adapted to the culture and lifestyle in a way it's almost as if they were American because they have been here since they were young. As the forum continued and the question about the Dream Act came up Kristin responded to it in a way that I disagreed. She commented, that she voted against the Dream Act, because CAL Grants are limited and if

they are given to undocumented students it will take away the opportunity for residents/ U.S. citizens to receive a CAL Grant (Olsen) I disagreed with her because she had previously mentioned how she supported ALL students to pursue a higher education but then she doesn't agree with the Dream Act. How does she believe that students are going to receive higher education when they cannot afford it? School is important in everyone's lives especially for undocumented students. That is one of the main reason why they came to the United States for education and being denied the access to financial aid is like having a wall in front of you preventing you to keep on going.

I agree with the Dream Act because it gives all students the opportunity to go to a University or College its many people's dream to accomplish in life. According to the LA Times "Going to college is a dream that promises intellectual excitement and creative thinking," Brown said in a statement. "The Dream Act benefits us all by giving top students a chance to improve their lives and the lives of all of us."(LA Times par. 6) was his response to the Dream Act; I agree students who had high grades in high school deserve the opportunity to continue their education because someday may help this country. Undocumented students shouldn't be excluded because of the way they look, or where they come from we should all be treated with equality and as people say treat someone the way that you would like to be treated. Education can make a difference in everyone's lives it allows us to learn and explore the variety of careers there are and be what we want to be in life. Education is the pathway to success but to get there undocumented immigrants also need financial help.

According to the College Board "...65,000 undocumented students—that is, children born abroad who are not U.S. citizens or legal residents—graduate from U.S. high schools each year."(College Board par. 1) That is a lot of people. All those students face difficult challenges

while trying to obtain an education after high school. Many end up working instead of continuing school because it's too expensive for them. Or many of the students go to community colleges instead of a university because it is less expensive. Even if they had the best grades in their class they still wouldn't qualify for financial aid because of where they come from since they don't have any papers that demonstrate their legal status. Those students don't have many options but one of them that many do is put their education on hold and work to have enough money to pay for their schooling.

Being undocumented is not a choice for many students because they come here when they are children seeking a better life alongside their parents. They have to face many challenges as they get older realizing that education is far too expensive and there is no financial help available for them because of their legal status. Governor Jerry Brown has made a change for immigrant students because he signed the Dream Act even though it will take effect in 2013 it gives hope to those students because they will be able to continue with their education.

Education is important for everyone because it allows us to pursue our academic goals and have a better future. Being denied the access to continue with education is like having a wall in front of you that is preventing you to keep on going because there is no way around it. Students should all have the opportunity to go to school because we the students are the future for this country.

We all deserve the opportunity to make a change in our lives and turn our dreams into reality, in order for that to happen we all need to help one another to make that change. Governor Jerry Brown has taken the first step to help undocumented students, what will your first step be to help?

Works Cited

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