

Undocumented Students

State funded financial aid and access to California's public universities and colleges should be available to undocumented students. Many undocumented students after they graduate from high school also want to attend a university. Unfortunately, the majority can't due to their citizenship status. I truly believe undocumented students in the United States, especially in California, should have access to public universities and receive financial aid. That is because it was not their fault that they were brought and raised here in California. They also have a dream of being someone in life and pursuing a career. Lastly the main reason their families came to California was to provide their children a superior life, which is a higher education. With these reasons, despite their citizen status, they should be able to attend a four year university and receive financial aid.

Many undocumented students now in school don't really know they are undocumented, or it wasn't their fault they came here to California. All they think about is that they are living in California and going to school while their parents work hard. Like Sergio, he and his mom got separated because his mother "moved, without immigration papers, to the United States to find work and a better life for her family"(qtd. in Jewell 48). They both reunited after 8 long years when Sergio and his sister went to the United States illegally. Many families like Sergio's go through the same situation and is really complicated because there are times families won't even see each other again. Like my mom, she came to United States and got married and got her residency and went back to Mexico after 12 long years. Once those undocumented students are in California, they don't know how the system works, but once they graduate from high school

and find out they can't receive financial aid they don't have any other choice than to go to a junior college or just work. Sergio does say "I live here. It's my country; too, I want it to be the best it can be, for me and for everyone else. Just because I came here without papers and had to learn English doesn't mean I can't contribute something" (qtd. in Jowell 51). I really support his idea, because so many students like him really want a higher education and many work hard so they can show how much they care about their education. Honestly being undocumented shouldn't be a problem to California to stop them. Them being "Illegal" doesn't mean they have potential in themselves and knowledge. Sergio believed in himself that "He began to gain confidence in his abilities and in his potential for succeeding in higher education" (qtd. in Jowell 50). "Illegal" or "legal" should get the opportunity to show that they really care about their education.

Many undocumented families do come to have a better future and education is one. As Drachman states "Like most Americans, they pursue the American dream of a better life than they left behind. Education is the key to fulfilling this dream" (qtd. in Drachman 91). That's why I believe that all undocumented students willing to acquire a higher education should receive financial aid if they need it. Since today many undocumented students "who enroll in college cannot afford to do so is damaging psychologically and emotionally to these students, as well as a terrible waste of talent and potential" (qtd. in Drachman 94). This is my idea, because there are so many students that want to go to a four year college but they can't because financial aid won't accept their citizenship status and it makes them depressed they can't go to a university to pursue a career. All these undocumented students come here to be part of the United States; they went to elementary school, middle school and high school. Now they want to go to a prestigious university, but can't because they don't qualify for financial aid. Therefore, "it is in the public

interest to allow them to reach their full potential through a college education. For many students in today's world higher education is necessary for success in their career, so denying undocumented students access to college would mean life-long punishment"(qtd. in Drachman 94). Which states how they came here to study hard and they are doing something positive in their life and will improve the United States. How? By having more students graduated from a university and having a well educated society.

Since there is no other way for undocumented students to pay for a high tuition "local community college is the first stop for many undocumented students looking for opportunities to better themselves and better their families" (qtd. in Pluiose 23). After I graduated from high school many of my friends that are undocumented just applied to a part time job and are just now going to the junior college. That is because they can't afford to pay their tuition at a four year university. What's sad is that one of my friends graduated as a valedictorian with a white robe and she was one of the few that I imagined going to like UCLA or UC San Diego. Sadly her parents just couldn't pay such amount of money. Like Oscar "Not only musically talented, he is gifted academically and graduated from high school with a 4.3 GPA. He knew he could get into many colleges with his academic credentials, but his status meant he would be paying out-of-state tuition" (qtd. in Yocum- Gaffney 75). Oscar is said to be a really smart student, but it would be hard for him to go to a university and paying more money. I absolutely believe undocumented students should receive help from financial aid so they can pursue a career.

Furthermore reality is how "Undocumented students need both access and services to succeed--and often, they get neither" (qtd. in Meiners 1). This means how many undocumented students are offered to go to a 4 year university but don't qualify for financial aid and end up just going to a community college or just finding a job. Luz an undocumented student says "It's

possible for undocumented students to apply, but the way everything is set up, it's so expensive and you're not going to get any financial aid, so it's kind of like they're teasing you"(qtd. in Meiners 11). Which is true because everything seems to be available to anyone but once they encounter with "fill in your social security number" they stay frozen because they aren't legal citizen. This makes undocumented students to stop believing in their dream and makes them frustrated and sad and just nervous because they don't know what to do.

Whereas Kristen Olsen said how "undocumented students should have access to financial aid IF there was enough money for every undocumented student and legal students". Education should be really important and more money should be funded to students. This is because there are many undocumented students that still want to get a higher education so they could graduate with their degree.

Now it's to those who say that there would be limited financial aid and that undocumented students are taking money from the legal students. To me I believe that if financial aid is deducted that is at least still giving opportunities to students who want a better future. "Undocumented students would not necessarily take the seats of legal immigrants or legal residents or receive preference for admission based on their immigration status. Instead, they would be part of the general in-state applicant pool" (qtd. in Drachman 94). With many students graduating from a four year university and with a career will make the United States a better place. Where the United States will rank the highest with university graduates.

Finally I believe undocumented immigrants that have been here since kids deserve to qualify for financial aid if they need it and graduate from a University. Eventually at end the day," the American people will realize that undocumented immigrants are a valuable national

resource that should be tapped rather than rejected—for reasons of pragmatism, equity, civil rights, and humanitarianism"(qtd. in Drachman 99).

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