

Fair or Not Fair?

If you were an undocumented student, would you like to get financial aid in California due to the fact you are not going to be able to pursue success if you do not? Everybody sees the Dream Act in many different aspects, depending if it affects you or not. A good example is the DREAM Act and the AB540. In 2011 Jerry Brown signed both parts to the DREAM Act, the first part signed were the requirements to the Dream Act and the second part signed was the agreement to give financial aid to undocumented students. The AB540 has been around for eleven years. If you think over all the financial depth the government revenue had in spending, you will see how the DREAM Act will help the economy financially. Our recession could be to an end. New doctors, lawyers, teachers and nurses are going to be made by these undocumented students.

August 2011, Jerry Brown signed the first part of the DREAM Act, which allows undocumented students to get financial aid from the government. Jerry Brown exclaimed, "Signing Dream Act is another piece of investment in people, because people are what drive the culture, the economy, the state and our Country." (S. Jarrett) Thinking in an abraded way, seeing and putting ourselves in the spot of the immigrants Brown has a big point; undocumented students are going to be successful and could bring the state out of recession. Not only that, but the Dream Act is an investment in growing human resources. It is a way to expand jobs and come out of the recession.

I have always wondered why people say it is not fair to help undocumented student financially to continue with their education if it increases the economy. To be accepted in the

Dream Act you have to pass certain requirements. Have graduated from a high school, have come to the United States before the age of five and be accepted to a college. Undocumented students are the last priority in the State of California who are going to be getting private financial aid. In my own personal opinion and experience I believe there is no reason to be jealous. In the surroundings of California, undocumented students tend to do better in school than documented students. At the beginning of their journey to become successful in life undocumented students struggle to understand the main language, English. Documented students get everything in their hands by just saying "I want this" although it is not a right way to spoil your children because they get use to that type of standard of living.

Spoiling those not mean giving them everything, it means giving them the chance to be something in life that was one of the reason the bill AB540 was established. Overall the hard work and struggles the undocumented students have to go through; the establishment of the AB540 can make a change like it did to me. My life has changed dramatically due to this bill. When I was a senior I was scared of not being able to continue with my education because of the tuition of college. Plenty of research had to be made to get myself where I am. At the end of my senior year I had to apply to the AB540. We, as undocumented students have to do extra steps in order to become something in life. The good thing about applying to this bill is that I applied to immigration the past year. Now with the bill over my shoulder, I am attending CSU Stanislaus.

Over all the overwhelming research made to get myself enrolled in Stanislaus I learned one important fact. The AB540 is not used only by undocumented students. Statistics have been made and only 10% of the 100% are undocumented students. (Vega)

As Philip R. stated, “According to research conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center, there were nearly 11 million undocumented residents in the United States as of March 2005, and 24 percent of them lived in California. Assuming the percentage of an undocumented resident between the ages of 18 and 39 is the same in California as it is nationwide (that is, 72 percent), California may have approximately 1.9 million undocumented residents in this age range. If one-third of those residents are under 25, then California would have roughly 633,000 undocumented residents that meet a reasonable definition of college-aged.” (Day Jr.)

Over all there is no need to say undocumented students are going to be taking money away from Americans. The AB540 helps undocumented student, and not all now about this bill. The AAB540 was established to help out of state college students, coming to study at the United States with a visa or permission. Documented students have always had the first priority, no matter what the circumstances are. Dr. Jim Rigs, has served as president for many different colleges and mentioned, “ If one looks at someone that has gone to high school for three or more years and graduates, I don’t think we can categories them as sneaking into the country. Maybe we should revisit the issue of what is illegal” (Rigs) Dr. Rigs has a big point, if they already have had free education from K-12 and have adapted to the society they should not be classified as illegal by the mistakes their parents have maid.

Seeing how documented students have always had the first priority, in 2007 Sergio Arau made a movie called “Un dia sin Mexicanos; A Day Without A Mexicans” which was made for the Americans to see how they will live without the Mexicans. Mexicans are the ones who end up doing the hard work, for example working in the fields. Immigrants give the price to our goods and services of our economy.

As mentioned in the article of Becoming Legal Immigrants, “I would like to add, as someone with personal experience, that her suggestion of \$6,000 for an H-1B for six years is way off the mark. She fails to point out the cost of additional work permits, extensions, non-working visas for family members, and the cost of appeals when the immigration bureau denies approval of visas. To date, for myself and my family of four, we have spent nearly \$42,000 to live legally in the United States.” (Process)

Being shown in the statement, if they are already giving the United States money for a short period of time, why not give them documentation? The government will end up obtaining more money. Having them get financial aid for their children will make their children want to be something more than what they had. This will bring an initiative to try harder in school. Crops could end up being worth more than what they already do because of the type of degree the employee has. Just because they have a degree does not mean they are not going to stop working for us, it is something it comes from blood. Personal experience has shown how graduating from a college those not stop a student from working in the fields. (Abrego) One cousin of mine graduated with a Bachelors in Agriculture and now has its own grape crops were he established the Montes winery. Having experienced working in the fields to get where he is at makes him interact differently with the workers and still brings goods and services to our economy.

Coming to California at a young age, not knowing what was happening makes teenagers have a harder time in their career. Is that fair? Should they be able to receive private financial aid? Yes, there are many different types of reason. Jerry Brown signed the first part of the DREAM Act in August giving undocumented students the privilege to receive financial aid. Jerry Brown is not giving undocumented students a Social Security Number to be able to apply to FAFSA. They are going to be the last ones to receive money from private companies. Not

only that but they are the people that take less advantage from the established bills like the DREAM Act and the AB540. Like the AB540, as mentioned before only 10% of those students pay in-state tuition, and in order to apply to the AB540 they have to do a lot of investigation and determination to their education.(Camarota) Undocumented who come to America has the dream of having their white house with a big back yard, those undocumented students do deserve it. They have the same opportunities to be something in life. They are the next generation. They will be the next to vote and make decisions and therefore, we owe it to them to give them opportunities that many before them never had.

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