

Undocumented Immigrants vs. State Funds

The United States of America is called ‘the land of opportunities.’ Undocumented immigrants come to The United States for an opportunity. One of the main controversial issues for Californians is undocumented immigrants and state funds. Citizens that pay taxes do not like their money being used by undocumented immigrants who do not deserve it for higher education. State Funds, financial aid, and access to California’s public universities and colleges should not be available to undocumented immigrants.

Should illegal immigrants receive states funds like low-income California residents do? This is a question that every politician in California discusses, but who has the answer? It’s hard to say the answer will be right because as Californian citizens we want financial aid. Representative Kristen Olsen is in the California State Assembly, and was one of the *Perspectives in Higher Education* guest speakers. Olsen comments on the idea of giving or not giving undocumented immigrants state funds, as she remarks, “by giving undocumented students state fund then we are taking that opportunity away from citizens” (Olsen). I agree with what she has to say because if citizens cannot go to college because there funds have been taken away by an undocumented student, then how do they get the opportunity to go to school. A citizen should be able to access government funds because it comes out of their taxes.

Californians still debating about state funds to be given to illegal undocumented immigrant students, so they can go to college for higher education. A USA Today newspaper article written by Alan Gomez states, “The bill, passed Sept. 2 by the Legislature, would give

illegal immigrant students about \$ 40 million in financial aid and fee waivers” (Gomez). I disagree with what our governor Jerry Brown who has decided to give undocumented immigrants \$40 million of in state funds. If we think about it, where is the money going to come from? The answer would be tax payers, but both ways the state and people of California are in financial crisis. This would take away money from the citizens that work so hard to get the state funds. Illegal immigrants should not be able to access any of the aid that citizen should be getting.

Undocumented immigrants making their way to California, just trying to fit in, but we can not accept them. Despite the fact that, Governor Jerry Brown is approving financial aid money for undocumented immigrants. *Education Benefits for Undocumented Immigrants* state, “ Section 505 of Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) mandates that unauthorized aliens “shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State (or a political subdivision) for any postsecondary education benefit” (qtd. in Education). According to the *Education Benefits for Undocumented Immigrants* tell us that illegal immigrants are not eligible for any education benefits. This proves that undocumented immigrants should not receive any financial help through the state for higher education.

California has been spending more money on undocumented immigrants then they would on citizens of this state. Despite that section 505 disapproves of undocumented immigrants getting and financial help. The article *SAY NO TO IMMIGRATION REFORM* written by Heather MacDonald reveals, “ (By one conservative estimate, California spends at least \$6 billion a year on services, from **education** and health care to prison, for **illegals** and their families” (MacDonald). MacDonald has emphasized that undocumented immigrants get practically free care because they spend so much money on them. If a citizen wants all these

benefits taken care of they probably would have to pay for. All this money comes from those Californian citizens that pay the government and state taxes.

Supporting undocumented students for higher education can take away a citizens education. Even though illegal immigrants get all the help through the state that a citizen might not receive. *Battle Continues over In-State Tuition for Illegal Immigrants* is an article written by Marilyn Gilroy which reveals, “But while many advocates want to open the doors to higher education for undocumented students, critics say the laws granting instate tuition discriminate against other low-income students and legal residents of the United States” (Gilroy). Advocates are proposing to go against the law and lend undocumented students the financial help to get a higher education, while critics disagree. Gilroy implies that it would be unfair and discrimination against those students, who have worked hard to get this higher education, even has Californian citizens. While those students that have come here illegally get the financial help that they do not deserve because of advocates that said they should. Citizens should have more right then an illegal undocumented immigrant would.

State funds and financial aid should not be available to undocumented immigrants. Californian citizens pay for the illegal immigrants to have the benefits that a citizen could have. Paying federal and state taxes which all go towards the undocumented immigrants do not deserve to take this money. Undocumented immigrants do not deserve to receive any financial help from the state or government.