

Everyone deserves an opportunity

Last December the Dream Act was introduced by a group of bipartisan legislators. It eventually made its way to the House of Representatives passed on and received Obamas support but it did not pass the senate in 2010. Dream Act was later introduced once again in 2011, and if passed the Dream Act would increase educational access for millions of the young undocumented students. So far, the number of undocumented students is increasing year by year. We simply blindfold ourselves not realizing that the undocumented students didn't come to the United States because they wanted to, but because they were brought here by their families. As parents they want their children to have many opportunities they didn't have. We as American see the undocumented students differently, we label them as "aliens" or "immigrants" considering them harmful or people who only come to the U.S to take jobs away from us, the Americans. We see them as people who are simply getting in the way. But undocumented students should have an opportunity, as well as all the other students, to attend college with the financial aid from the government.

Undocumented students face many problems when trying to apply for college. The Urban Institute estimates that 65,000 undocumented students that is, children born out of the country who are not U.S. citizens or legal residents and graduate from U.S. high schools each year are guaranteed an education in U.S. public schools through grade 12, but may face legal and financial barriers to higher education (Advising Undocumented Students par 1). At least one million undocumented immigrants in the United States today are children under 18 years of age

who were born in other countries and brought here to the U.S by their families. Many born abroad but raised in the U.S. as Americans. Educated in the U.S acquiring American culture and different values. They grow up in the American culture and become so accustomed to the so called “The American life” and eventually end up having few memories of their country of origin. After attending school for 12 years, they plan out their future, but not knowing that they will have to face many barriers and might not be able to attend college due to the fact of their illegal status.

In Mexico, education is viewed very different than the way Americans view education. To us the Americans education is the way that leads us to success. We see education as the only path that will lead into a better life. Without an education life can be a struggle. The majority of the parents in the U.S rather have their children attend college and get a degree, than see their children working in a fast food restaurant. In Mexico education can also be taken seriously but it depends on the family’s economic status. Normally families that are wealthy enough to afford school or college allow their children to attend school. If the family cannot afford to send their children to school, the parents rather have their children work and help them out with crops, animals or any other type of work that will bring in more money into the family. Education is not forced by the government in Mexico. It’s a choice that parents or students can both make. They decide if they attend school or if they don’t and parents don’t get punished and neither do students If they don’t attend.

Here in the U.S we view education as the number one thing. After attending the forum: perspectives on higher education on Tuesday October 25 Kristen Olsen one of the four speakers that attended made a good point and said if we allow foreign students to attend our universities who are we to say that undocumented students can’t attend them as well. Undocumented

students just want a chance and once they have finally graduated high school they want to attend college and continue with their education. But what happens when college applications ask for students immigration status, does it stop them from applying? Not exactly, when they get to this question, students might either get discouraged and not continue with the application and others continue but leave that question blank taking the chance of not being accepted.

Many undocumented students assume that they cannot attend college due to their illegal status. What the students don't know is that there is no federal or state law that prohibits the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges and universities, public or private, nor does federal or state law requires students to prove citizenship in order to enter U.S. institutions of higher education. Colleges and universities might not offer as much financial aid to the undocumented students as they do to U.S citizens but there are many different types of scholarships offered to the undocumented students. Studies have shown that out of the 50 states in U.S only (10 which are Texas, California, New York, Utah, Illinois, Washington, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas have passed laws that permit undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates under certain conditions (FinAid par 2).

The Dream Act has the potential of adjusting the legal status of 2.1 million unauthorized children and young adults across the U.S. With a college degree and the ability to obtain legal employment, Dream Act beneficiaries would have greater employment opportunities and earning likely and would be able to fund more to the U.S. economy. The legalization of unauthorized immigrants, on the other hand, would create jobs and boost the economy. Given the fact that the unemployment rate in the country remains above 9%, the failure of congress to enact the Dream Act was short sighted (College Board par 10). If the

Dream Act were to be signed, it would provide many opportunities for the undocumented students.

Works cited

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