

The DREAM Act of 2010

The DREAM Act would allow a select group of immigrant students with great potential to contribute more fully to America. These young people were brought to the U.S. and should not be punished for their parents' mistakes. The DREAM Act would give these students a chance to earn legal status if they:

- Came to the U.S. as children (15 or under)
- Are long-term U.S. residents (continuous physical presence since at least 2005)
- Have good moral character and are not ineligible for criminal or national security reasons
- Graduate from high school or obtain a GED
- Complete two years of college or military service in good standing
- Apply within one year of obtaining a high school degree/GED or the bill's enactment

The DREAM Act would benefit the U.S. Armed Forces. Tens of thousands of highly-qualified, well-educated young people would enlist in the Armed Forces if the DREAM Act becomes law. The Defense Department's FY 2010-12 Strategic Plan includes the DREAM Act as a means to help "shape and maintain a mission-ready All Volunteer Force." Defense Secretary Gates, who supports the DREAM Act, says it "will result in improved recruitment results and attendant gains in unit manning and military performance." General Colin Powell has also endorsed the DREAM Act, saying, "Immigration is what's keeping this country's lifeblood moving forward."

The DREAM Act would cut the deficit and stimulate the American economy. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office concluded that the DREAM Act would produce \$1.3 billion in net deficit cuts over 10 years. A recent UCLA study concluded that DREAM Act participants could contribute \$1.4-\$3.6 trillion to the U.S. economy during their working lives. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who supports the DREAM Act, says, "They are just the kind of immigrants we need to help solve our unemployment problem. It is senseless for us to chase out the home-grown talent that has the potential to contribute so significantly to our society."

The DREAM Act includes important restrictions to prevent abuse. The DREAM Act leaves in place the federal penalty for providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. DREAM Act participants would not be eligible for Pell and other federal grants, would be subject to tough criminal penalties for fraud, and would be "conditional nonimmigrants" without permanent legal status for at least ten years, during which they would be:

- Ineligible for government subsidies to participate in the health insurance exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act;
- Ineligible for Medicaid, Food Stamps and other entitlement programs; and
- Prohibited from sponsoring relatives for legal status.

The DREAM Act has broad bipartisan support. In the 110th Congress, the DREAM Act received 52 votes, including 12 Republicans. According to a recent poll by Opinion Research Corporation, 70% of likely voters favor the DREAM Act, including 60% of Republicans.

The DREAM Act is supported by labor, business, education, civil rights and religious groups, including the AFL-CIO, the National PTA, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the CEOs of Fortune 100 companies like Microsoft and Pfizer, and dozens of colleges and universities.