



Connecticut Students for a Dream
Empower. Educate. Advocate.

S.B. 147: EQUAL ACCESS TO INSTITUTIONAL AID REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

Undocumented Connecticut students cannot access institutional aid, so many cannot afford college.

- “Institutional aid” is money that colleges set aside from tuition payments in order to support students with demonstrated financial need.
- Undocumented Connecticut students contribute to institutional aid through their tuition, but are barred from receiving any of this aid under current law. This framework is unequal and unfair.
- As Rep. Roberta Willis (Higher Education Committee Co-Chair) has said, undocumented students are “entitled to a piece of the pie they helped to bake.”

Equalizing access to institutional aid is an investment in Connecticut’s future.

- Undocumented students will help grow Connecticut’s economy and expand the tax base in the future. A college degree raises average lifetime tax contribution by \$55,000.
- Expanding aid to undocumented students will cost taxpayers nothing. According to the Fiscal Analysis Office, S.B. 147 has no fiscal impact on the state.
- Ensuring equal access to higher education is fair: everyone who works hard deserves an opportunity to succeed.

There is a broad base of support for ensuring equal access to institutional aid.

- Similar legislation (S.B. 398) passed the Senate with bipartisan support last year, and Sen. Pres. Pro Tempore Martin Looney has endorsed our campaign again this year.
- Legislators, current students, educators, and officials at the Board of Regents and the University of Connecticut have spoken publicly in strong support of the bill.
- The challenges faced by undocumented students affect constituents in every district. The issue has also received favorable coverage in a range of news outlets including the Hartford Courant, WNPR, and the Connecticut Post.
- This common-sense reform has been adopted by states as diverse as Texas, California, Minnesota, and Washington.

This legislation has passed the Senate on bi-partisan vote, 21-13. **We are asking you to support S.B. 147 in order to expand access to institutional aid to all students regardless of immigration status.**

Connecticut Students for a Dream is a youth-led statewide network fighting for the rights of undocumented youth and their families.
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