

IN-STATE FOR DREAMERS ACT OF 2014

SPONSORED BY SENATOR PATTY MURRAY (D-WA) AND CONGRESSMAN JARED POLIS (D-CO)

The Investing IN States To Achieve Tuition Equity (IN-STATE) for Dreamers Act of 2014 provides incentives for states to offer in-state tuition and need-based aid for DREAMer students

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The IN-STATE for Dreamers Act establishes the American Dream Grant program, which encourages states to increase access to higher education for low-income students, regardless of immigration status. This program would provide \$750 million (over ten years) in need-based student financial aid to states that set equitable in-state tuition rates and offer financial aid to undocumented students.

American Dream Grants would supplement state financial aid funding, in order to increase higher education affordability for all students. States would qualify for grants by allowing in-state tuition for undocumented students or by expanding access to state financial aid for these students. This legislation is not a state mandate and is fully paid for.

QUICK FACTS

- **19:** States that currently offer in-state tuition for undocumented students: CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, KS, MD, MI, MN, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OK, OR, RI, TX, UT and WA.
- **1.8 million:** Individuals nationwide (estimated) who could qualify as DREAMers.
- **65,000:** DREAMers who graduate from American high schools each year.
- **\$8,893:** Average in-state tuition at public, four-year colleges.
- **\$22,203:** Average out-of-state tuition public, four-year colleges.
- **\$13:** Return on every \$1 of federal investment in need-based financial aid through state matches.

SUPPORTERS

AFL-CIO, American Federation of Teachers, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance of the AFL-CIO, Association of Community College Trustees, Colorado State University, Council on Opportunity in Education, Democrats for Education Reform, Demos, ED Trust, First Focus Campaign for Children, Jobs for the Future, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, National Association of College Admission Counseling, National Council of La Raza, National Education Association, National Immigration Law Center, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, United States Student Association, United We Dream, University of Washington, Washington State University, University of Hawaii, We Belong Together: Women for Common-Sense Immigration Reform, Young Invincibles

BACKGROUND

For generations of Americans, post-secondary education has served as a path to achieving the American dream. However, low-income students increasingly face significant obstacles to higher education, such as costly tuition rates and lack of financial aid. For undocumented students, known as DREAMers, the challenges are even greater.

In the past, the federal government has partnered with states to expand access to higher education for low-income students through The Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP). LEAP provided funding to states that established need-based student financial aid programs. When funded, the \$62 million annual federal investment leveraged \$840 million in state matching funds, a \$13 return for every dollar in federal investment.

Students who came to America before they were 16 years old, and have earned a high school diploma, GED, or have served in the uniformed services (DREAMers) deserve access to the American dream. In order to ensure that DREAMers have access to a higher education credential, they should not be discriminated against because of their immigration status.