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09 MAY 14 PM 4:16

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. 82054 C.M.S.

### INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR DE LA FUENTE

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Resolution In Support Of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minor - DREAM Act, which would allow undocumented students who have lived in the United States for at least five years and have graduated high school or received a graduate equivalency diploma (GED) to legalize their immigration status, thereby making them eligible for Federal financial aid, and allow states to consider these students as state residents for tuition purposes at state universities.

WHEREAS, Each year 65,000 undocumented students, who have lived in the United States for over five years, graduate from American high schools; and

WHEREAS, These students face overwhelming obstacles in accessing higher education due to their immigration status, which makes them ineligible for federal financial aid and requires them to pay out-of-state tuition for those attending state universities despite their long-term residency within our country; and,

WHEREAS, There are many of these children from Oakland and surrounding communities in our public schools, and many of them drop out of high school, and are discouraged from studying because they see no value in pursuing higher education because of their immigration status; and,

WHEREAS, These children came to the United States due to their parents' actions and did not take part in any decision to circumvent the immigration laws of this country; and,

WHEREAS, Most of these children, having been raised and educated in the United States, view themselves as "Americans" and have the same dreams, goals and aspirations as other American children; and,

WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants make vital contributions to the economic stability and cultural richness of the City of Oakland, the State of California, and the United States, yet remain vulnerable to exploitation, victimization and stigmatization as long as they are denied legal immigration status and meaningful access to higher education; and,

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has determined that every state has a constitutional obligation to provide free public primary and secondary education to all children residing within their borders regardless of their immigration status; and,

WHEREAS, federal standards and accountability requirements imposed on elementary and secondary education institutions necessarily entail a federal commitment to education, including the assurance of meaningful access to higher education; and,

WHEREAS, California, on average, invests upward of \$7,000 each year for each of its public school students; and,

WHEREAS, A high school diploma and the lack of legal immigration status condemn undocumented students to a life of underemployment, instability and unfulfilled potential; and,

WHEREAS, Access to higher education will allow these students to break the bonds of poverty, to raise the level of esteem in which they are held by our society and to make full contribution to our country's civic, political and economic well-being; and,

WHEREAS, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minor - DREAM Act would remedy this situation by allowing undocumented students who have lived in the United States for at least five years and have graduated high school or received a graduate equivalency diploma (GED) to legalize their immigration status, thereby making them eligible for Federal financial aid, and allow states to consider these students as state residents for tuition purposes at state universities. NOW, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the City of Oakland fully supports the passage of the DREAM Act; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Oakland urges the President of the United States to make passage of the DREAM Act one of his top legislative priorities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, City of Oakland urges California's Senators, and our local members of the House of Representatives, all of whom are Cosponsors of the Dream Act, to use the full force of their influence and leadership to encourage other Congresspersons and Senators to vote for the passage of the DREAM Act.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, JUN 2 2009, 2009

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**


AYES- BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, ~~REIS~~, and  
PRESIDENT BRUNNER - 7

NOES- 0

ABSENT- Reid - 1

ABSTENTION- 0

ATTEST:

  
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LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California