

Resolution to Support In-State Tuition for DACA Students

WHEREAS, non-citizen students with a grant of deferred action are currently barred from receiving in-state tuition; and,

WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an executive action allowing that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and are eligible for work authorization. [1]

WHEREAS, DACA students are legally present within the United States [1]; and,
WHEREAS, state, local, and federal governments spend an average of \$8,406 per year, almost \$110,000 total, on a Georgia student's K-12 education[2]; and,

WHEREAS this amounts to more than \$1 billion the public spends educating DACA-eligible Georgians over the course of five years[2]; and,

WHEREAS, Georgia fails to capitalize on this \$1 billion investment when these students are denied access to higher education; and,

WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants alone paid more than \$352 million in state/local taxes in 2012 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, People with bachelor's degrees pay an average of \$2,268 more per year in state and local taxes than high school graduates [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Georgia is missing out in \$9.4 million in new tax revenue per year by disqualifying academically-eligible Georgians from discounted in-state tuition [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Nathan Deal's Complete College Initiative outlines a need to create 250,000 additional college graduates by 2020 to meet workforce demands [2]; and,

WHEREAS, this Initiative also specifically calls for more African-American, Hispanic, and other students traditionally underrepresented in college to complete their degrees[2]; and,

WHEREAS, 66 percent of Georgia's DACA-eligible immigrants were born in Mexico or Central America and are also traditionally underrepresented in college[2]; and,



WHEREAS, an estimated 49,000 Georgia residents are eligible for DACA, and forty percent of these DACA-eligible Georgia residents have a high school diploma, but are not currently enrolled in college[2]; and,

WHEREAS, According to a Migration Policy Institute study, the high cost of out-of-state tuition is seen as the main factor pricing higher education out of the reach of most DACA recipients [2]; and,

WHEREAS, denying in-state tuition to DACA students fails to create the same diverse workforces that 27 other states, including regional competitors Texas, Florida, and Virginia, will foster with more inclusive tuition policies[2]; and,

WHEREAS, providing qualified students more accessible higher education within Georgia will keep valuable human capital from being exported to other states, benefitting Georgia's overall economy and institutions; and,

WHEREAS, an educated populace benefits all Georgia residents; and,

WHEREAS, equal opportunity and education are quintessential American and Georgian values; and,

WHEREAS, according to The United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every human has the right to "equally accessible" higher education "on the basis of merit" [3]; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE ATLANTA CAMPUS STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SUPPORT ANY POLICY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA TO GRANT IN-STATE TUITION ELIGIBILITY TO DACA STUDENTS.

Author:

Sebastian Parra
Student Body President

Respectively Sponsored by Senators:

Juan Galvis
Kevin Martinez
Noel Salaiques

[1] "Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)." *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*. N.p., 03 Aug. 2015. Web. 29 Oct. 2015. <<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>>.

[2] Johnson, Melissa. "Georgia's Workforce Development, Economy Damaged by Barriers to Higher Education for Undocumented Students." *Georgia Budget and Policy Institute* (n.d.): n. pag. Aug. 2015. Web. 29 Oct. 2015. <<http://gbpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Tuition-Equity-for-Undocumented-Students-Report.pdf>>.

[3] "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations." *UN News Center*. UN, n.d. Web. 03 Nov. 2015. <<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>>.