



Associated Students of Western Washington University
Board of Directors

A Resolution Regarding the Washington State DREAM Act
March 2013

WHEREAS, many undocumented American youth arrive in this country and this state through the decision of their parents to relocate in search of opportunities to improve their lives and futures; and,

WHEREAS, many of these young people have no mechanism to obtain legal residency, even when they have lived the United States most of their lives and have built relationships, families, businesses, and have contributed to communities; and,

WHEREAS, these young people should not be punished for their parents decision to enter the United States and; and,

WHEREAS, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiative instituted by President Obama is a first step in a process to ensure that American youth who grew up undocumented in the United States are given the same opportunities as their peers; and,

WHEREAS, attempts to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act have stalled in Congress, and the Washington State Legislature is currently considering a “Washington State DREAM Act” that would expand access to higher education for undocumented young immigrants who have lived in Washington for the majority of their lives; and,

WHEREAS, passage of the DREAM Act by Congress would add \$329 billion to the US economy, create 1.4 million new jobs, and help DREAMers earn 19 percent more by 2030;¹ and,

WHEREAS, “an increase in college-educated immigrants directly increases U.S. gross domestic product... [by] 1.4 to 2.4 percent”²; and,

WHEREAS, there are approximately 40,000 eligible DREAMers in Washington State, and passage of the DREAM Act in Congress would add \$5.7 billion to the Washington State economy alone;³ and,

¹ Guzman, Juan Carlos, and Jara, Raul C. “The Economic Benefits of Passing the DREAM Act.” September 30, 2012. Center for American Progress. <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/report/2012/09/30/39567/the-economic-benefits-of-passing-the-dream-act/>

² Ibid

³ Guzman, Juan Carlos, and Jara, Raul C. “The State Economic Benefits of Passing the DREAM Act.” October 1, 2012. Center for American Progress. <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2012/10/01/39215/the-state-economic-benefits-of-passing-the-dream-act/>

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of Western Washington University call on the Washington State Congressional Delegation to support and advocate for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) in their respective Chambers.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of WWU call on the Honorable Governor Jay Inslee and all Washington State Legislators, in particular Majority Coalition Caucus Leader Senator Rodney Tom and Senate Republican Leader Mark Schoesler, to support and advocate for the passage of HB 1817 also known as the “Washington State DREAM Act”.

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