

STUDENT SENATE BILL: 2009-1047

TITLE: Resolution in Support of the DREAM Act

AUTHORS: Senator Gaby Alvarez, Greyzer Torrico

SPONSORS: Chairman Ashton Charles, Chairman Virlany Taboada, Senator Megan Vu, Senator Winston Liu, Senator Josh Vasquez, Senator Jennise Acosta, Senator Anaili Triana, Senator Eliana Torres, Senator Dansibel Avello, Senator Ben Cavaturo

WE, THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, HEREBY RESOLVE:

WHEREAS, the **Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act** (hereon referred to as the DREAM Act) was first introduced in the Senate 2001, subsequently amended through the years but failed 8 votes short of reaching cloture on October 24, 2007; and

WHEREAS, this DREAM Act was introduced on March 26, 2009 by Senator Richard Durbin (IL), Richard Lugar (R-IN), Russell Feingold (D-WI), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Mel Martinez (R-FL), and Harry Reid (D-NV) in the Senate and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), Joseph Cao (R-LA), John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Devin Nunez (R-CA), Jared Polis (D-CO), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA); and

WHEREAS, this Act permits high school graduates who immigrated to the United States before they were 16 and lived in the country for at least five years prior to the passage of the legislation and are under the age of 30 at the time of enactment, to gain conditional residency; and

WHEREAS, this conditional residency is furthermore contingent upon requiring these students to be of 'good moral character,' and complete either two years of post-secondary education at a community college or military service; and

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act is intended for individuals who were brought to the United States as children and who shall not be punished for the alleged transgressions of their parents, deserving to be judged according to their own character and merit regardless of their country of birth or immigrant status; and

WHEREAS, immigrant students lacking legal U.S. residency have had no other means of legalizing their status and therefore, should now be given the chance to 'get-in line,' while pursuing post-secondary education, obtain legal status and become citizens of the country they call home, the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, no one gains from the creation of a permanent underclass that would come about as a result of denying these students the opportunity to pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America needs young, educated and hard-working adults to compete in the global political economy; and

WHEREAS, the federal passage of the DREAM Act would make legally self-evident what is true in "de facto": these undocumented students belong in our post-secondary institutions and are an American investment that we must not squander; and

WHEREAS, these students cannot afford to wait until Congress solves all the problems of our broken immigration system; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate endorses the DREAM Act that will allow thousands of young students to realize their educational dreams and increase the opportunity for advancement within the American society