

Mexican American Legislative Caucus

202 W. 13th Street, Austin, TX 78701 ★ Tel (512) 236-8410 ★ Fax (512) 236-8402 ★ www.malc.org



December 17, 2010

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator, Texas
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
Senator, Texas
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510



Executive Committee Members:

Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer
Chairman

Rep. Abel Herrero
Vice Chairman

Rep. Diana Maldonado
Secretary

Rep. Solomon Ortiz Jr.
Treasurer

Rep. Veronica Gonzales
Legal Counsel

Dear Senators Hutchison & Cornyn:

In the coming hours, you will have the rare opportunity to enact an important piece of legislation that is at the heart of the American Dream. We have told our children, as we were told by our parents, that if you work hard and play by the rules in America, then anything is possible. That is the American Dream and the Texas Promise. These children are the embodiment of this idea. The DREAM Act offers an avenue to normalcy for children who have lived in fear of deportation their whole lives. More importantly, it ends the nonsensical practice of punishing children for the desperate deeds of their parents. To deport children who never made a choice to commit a federal crime and who have worked and sacrificed for this country is the exact opposite of America.

Make no mistake there are some that have made appeals to you based wholly in misinformation and bigotry about this important piece of legislation. Here are the facts. Our state has invested vast educational and health resources in these children, because it was moral, ethical, and productive. Deporting these Texans renders that investment meaningless. Morally, it is truly unjust to punish someone for the crimes of their parents. Perhaps most importantly given our current fiscal reality, this bill shaves \$1.4 billion dollars off the national debt over the next decade. This is a tremendous return on the human capital that we have already invested in these children.

These children and young adults have dedicated themselves to higher education and to the defense of our country. Often, they have lived here for decades as Americans with little connection to their country of origin. In other words, they are just like millions of Americans who preceded them. I remind you that we are all the descendants of immigrants. It's just an accident of history that some of our families were lucky enough to immigrate at the right time.

EST. 1973

The Largest and
Oldest Latino Caucus
in the United States

Not printed or mailed
at state expense



The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison &
The Honorable John Cornyn
December 17, 2010
Page 2

I fully understand the scope and gravity of this debate. No matter your perspective, the DREAM Act is an effective public policy that is commensurate with our values. If you approach this from a moral perspective, it is wrong to demonize these children for the sins of their parents. If you approach this from a public policy perspective, Texas has invested tremendous resources into these children and deporting them wastes the value of our efforts. If you approach it from an economic perspective, the DREAM Act saves billions of tax dollars.

This Christmas Season my thoughts turn to the Holy Family and their initial sojourn to Bethlehem to be counted during a census. They traveled throughout the Eastern Mediterranean and throughout various provinces of the Roman Empire. Just imagine for a second, if we showed our Savior the same disdain that our current practice heaps on the children of the undocumented.

You have a choice to make. You can choose to reward hard work and dedication, to venerate the sacrifice of those who have fought for our country, and to protect the American Dream. To do otherwise is to close the door on these children denying them the opportunity to give back to our country. On behalf of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus and the millions of Latinos in this state, I ask that you vote for cloture and enact this important piece of legislation.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to you and your families,



Trey Martinez Fischer
Chairman, Mexican American Legislative Caucus
State Representative, District 116

CC: MALC Executive Committee;
Senate Hispanic Caucus;
MALC Members.