

The Dream Act: A Nightmare

December 2, 2010

Dear Colleague,

Please see the following bullet points regarding the DREAM Act. The House Democrat Leadership had indicated that they plan to bring the bill to the Floor. At present, no time has been set for Floor consideration. In addition, there is no indication as to which version of the DREAM Act will be considered in the House.

- A 1996 federal law prohibited public universities from granting in-state tuition to illegal immigrants unless they do the same for all U.S. citizens. Otherwise, U.S. citizen students from out of state (and their parents) would pay more in tuition than someone in the country illegally.
- **The Dream Act repeals this provision and allows illegal immigrants to receive in-state tuition rates at public universities, discriminating against U.S. citizens and law-abiding foreign students from out of state.** The result will be that illegal immigrants take more of the limited number of spaces available for students at public universities, crowding out deserving American students.
- **The Dream Act subsidizes the college education of illegal immigrants at taxpayer expense.** U.S. citizens should be first in line to receive taxpayer subsidies – not those who are violating federal law.
- The American people have recently demonstrated their strong opposition to amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants. **Yet the Dream Act offers amnesty to illegal immigrant students who entered the U.S. before they were 16 years old. It grants them permanent residence and then citizenship once they have completed two years of college or have served in the Armed Services, unless the Department of Homeland Security waives these requirements because of “hardship”! The Department can even decide not to deport amnesty recipients who are deportable criminals if this would cause “hardship.”**
- **According to the Migration Policy Institute, the DREAM Act could mean mass amnesty for 2.1 million illegal immigrants.** Fraud will likely drive the number much higher as illegal immigrants discover how easy it is to claim that they arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16. The Dream Act makes it easy for almost any illegal immigrant – even those who does not qualify for the amnesty – to evade the law.

- **Once an alien files an application, no matter how spurious, the federal government is prohibited from deporting the illegal immigrant.**
- **And once the DREAM Act beneficiaries apply for amnesty, they will be given work authorization. So these individuals who have broken the law will be legitimately competing for jobs with the 14.5% of Americans under age 35 who are currently unemployed.**
- The Dream Act will encourage more illegal immigration since illegal immigrant parents will bring their children with them in the expectation that they will benefit from another Dream Act. The Dream Act is a dream for those who have broken the law, but a nightmare for law-abiding and taxpaying Americans.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee.