

Providing Opportunity to All Students Is an Investment in Washington's Future

Education is the cornerstone of our democracy. In Washington State, we have long valued education, fairness, and diversity. The Washington State DREAM Act would build on these values by extending state-based financial aid to our state's young aspiring citizens, capitalizing on their potential while strengthening our state's economy.

Students Excluded from Financial Aid

In Washington State, not all students have access to financial aid. Young aspiring citizens are categorically denied federal and state-based financial aid, which often means these talented **students cannot afford to pursue their dreams of higher education.** We are committed as a state to educating all students from kindergarten through high school, **so why should we put up road blocks that restrict these bright, young students** from contributing fully to the richness of our communities and economy?

Economic Benefits

Under the Federal Government's Deferred Action order (DACA), many of these students are no longer "undocumented" and have or will obtain a **legal work permit** authorizing them to live and work in Washington State legally. Washington State cannot afford to leave a generation of young doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs and teachers behind. We have invested in these students from cradle to high school and **it makes no sense to let their skills and talent go to waste.**

Promotes Opportunity and Engagement

Hardworking students should be rewarded with opportunity, not excluded. The Washington State DREAM Act will **keep talented students in state** and should **increase graduation rates for immigrant students.** With a strong incentive and means to pursue higher education, these bright young aspiring citizens will give back to their communities after graduation and continue to **keep making Washington competitive.**

Washington State at the Forefront

In 2003, Washington State recognized the significant contribution made by young aspiring citizens and granted them access to in-state tuition. Other states followed our lead. **A decade later, the dream of higher education for many of these students is still out of their grasp,** because they don't qualify for state financial aid that would help them afford college. **Washington State should lead again by removing another barrier to higher education.** Washington would join California, Illinois, New Mexico, and Texas in extending state-based financial aid to young aspiring citizens.

Broad-based Public Support

The Washington State DREAM Act has overwhelming support from the higher education community, business associations, labor, faith and community based organizations across Washington State.





It's the Economy: Contributions of Immigrants to Washington's Economy and the Washington State DREAM Act

Nearly 1 in 6 Washingtonians are Asian or Latino —Asian and Latino entrepreneurs and consumers add tens of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to Washington's economy. The Washington State DREAM Act (access to state-based financial aid for Washington's young aspiring citizens) is critical to providing our workforce with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in a global economy.

Tax Revenue: Immigrants contributed **\$1.48 billion in tax revenue** to Washington's economy in 2007¹. Low income immigrant households pay the highest percent of their income to taxes – about 14.2 percent. Undocumented immigrants currently pay \$327.7 million annually in taxes in Washington State².

Purchasing Power: Washington's Asian and Latino **buying power accounted for over \$28 billion¹** or about 11.5 percent of the state's total consumer market.

At a Loss: If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Washington, **the state would lose \$14.5 billion in economic activity**, \$6.4 billion in gross state product, and approximately 71,197 jobs².

Immigrant Entrepreneurs are Job Creators: In 2000, WA's immigrant entrepreneurs contributed approximately **\$1.3 billion or 9.8 percent of total state business income** and provided a significant number of jobs. In 2007, Latino businesses generated \$1.5 billion in total revenues, employing 15,852 people. An average Asian or Latino business employs 7.02 and 3.42 full time workers respectively¹.

Net Benefits to Social Security: Nationally, undocumented immigrants have contributed **\$57.8 billion in unclaimed wages** to the Social Security system, contributions that will never be claimed. Both legal and undocumented immigrants are helping to support the approximately 10,000 baby boomers retiring every day for the next two decades¹.

Less Reliant on Public Assistance: In Washington, immigrant households **utilize public assistance at rates that are the same or lower** than native born households (with the exception state food assistance)¹.

Indispensable Professionals: In 2005, immigrants accounted for 46% of medical scientists, 35% of engineers, 21% of database administrators, and 20% of post-secondary educators nationally³. Undocumented immigrants accounted for 5.1% of Washington's work force in 2012².

Competitive in the Global Economy: Immigrants contribute skills and cultural understanding that help Washington **businesses extend into foreign and emerging markets**. Approximately 16.4 percent of people living in Washington speak two languages, the majority of whom are immigrants.

The Benefits of a College Degree: A 1999 RAND Study found a 30-year old Mexican immigrant woman with a college degree **will pay \$5,300 more in taxes and cost \$3,900 less in government expenses** annually compared to a high-school dropout with similar characteristics³.

The Future of our Economy: Demands the increase of the skills of people who are already going to be in the labor force - Since 1986, **Washington's Latino high school age population has grown by 492%⁴**. Most of these students will be **authorized to work under DACA** (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and are among the **most likely to gain permanent legal status**.

¹ OneAmerica, 2009. "Building Washington's Future: Immigrant Workers' Contributions to Our State's Economy"

² Immigration Policy Center, January 2012. "New Americans in Washington: The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in the Evergreen State"

³ Immigration Policy Center, 2007. "Dreams Deferred: The Costs of Ignoring Undocumented Students"

⁴ WSAC, December 2012. "Critical Crossroads: A Call for Action: the 2012 Strategic Action Plan for Educational Attainment"