



COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS OF LOS ANGELES

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AB 2083 "STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY ACT"

Under current California statute, students without lawful immigration status - as determined by AB 540-Firebaugh in 2001- applying to public colleges and universities are eligible to receive in-state tuition if they have attended high school for three or more years, or graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent. However, many of these students who are eligible for in-state tuition do not qualify for any federal or state student aid due to their immigration status. Even though many of these students were raised in California and are eligible to receive in-state tuition, college is still financially unattainable for the majority of these low-income students. In addition, many of these students are stuck in the backlogs and are waiting to obtain their legal status.

These young adults are among the most talented students; they are valedictorians, artists, and athletes. The majority of these students have lived in the U.S most of their lives. Since our state provided students access to public education throughout their formative years, encouraging them to set educational goals and to dream of their success, then we should not shatter their hopes by imposing restrictions that bar them from continuing their education at a college or university.

While the personal gains from higher education are widely acknowledged, the societal benefits are even more significant and lasting, thus warranting continued public investment. By investing in our youth, California can continue to position itself as one of the largest economies in the world while reaping the benefits of increased economic productivity and increased tax revenues. This is more relevant after a recent LA Times article highlights that California will face a shortage of educated workforce as 'baby-boomers' start to retire.¹

AB 2083 the "Student Financial Aid Eligibility Act"

AB 2083 (Nuñez) would strengthen California's institutions of higher education by opening access to limited state financial aid including grants, scholarships, work-study, fellowships, and loan programs for talented future and currently enrolled students in institutions of higher education who do not qualify for federal or state financial aid including those who are undocumented. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Villela at 213-353-1782 or Maria Rodriguez at 213-201-4450.

Supporters included (partial list):

California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	San Jose-Evergreen Community College District
California State University	San Francisco Chambers of Commerce
California Immigrant Policy Center	South Asian Resource Action Center
Los Angeles Area Chambers of Commerce	The Greenlining Institute
Los Angeles Community College District	United Teachers Los Angeles
Los Angeles Unified School District	
Rio Honda Community College District	

¹ Teresa Watanabe "Lack of skilled workers will lead to fiscal crisis, experts say" *Los Angeles Times*. April 21 2008.