



## THE COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS OF LOS ANGELES

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### SB 160 (CEDILLO) CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT

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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 fifth largest economies in the world while reaping the benefits of increased economic productivity and increased tax revenues.

It is estimated that approximately 50,000 to 60,000 students without legal status graduate from high school nationwide every year. These 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 provide 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.

Under current California law, students without lawful immigration status - as determined by AB 540-Firebaugh in 2002- 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 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.

#### **The "California Dream Act"-SB 160 (Cedillo) would allow:**

1. AB 540 students to apply for the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver at all public California community colleges;
2. AB 540 students to apply and compete for any student aid program administered by the attending college or university (i.e. State University Grant, UC Grant);
3. AB 540 students to apply for other statewide student aid program such as, but not limited to Cal Grants;
4. Students who finish their three years at continuation or adult schools to be eligible for "AB 540" in-state tuition by deleting the term *high school* and substituting the term *secondary school* for the eligibility of in-state tuition rates

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