

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DREAM ACT S.952 and DC DREAM Act
DC Latino Caucus
June 16, 2011**

Whereas, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (hereon referred to as the DREAM Act) was first introduced in the Senate in 2001, subsequently amended through the years, failed 5 votes short of reaching cloture on December 2010, and on May 11, 2011 was reintroduced to the US Senate; and

Whereas, an estimated 65,000 undocumented students graduate every year from American High Schools; and

Whereas, DC saw a growth in the Latino population of more than 21 percent, from 44,953 to 54,000, in the last decade, which was the highest growth of any group in the city; and

Whereas, the DREAM Act is intended for individuals who were brought to the United States as children and who shall not be punished for the good intentions of their parents, deserving to be judged according to their own character and merit regardless of their country of birth or immigrant status; and

Whereas, immigrant students lacking legal U.S. residency have had no other means of legalizing their status and therefore, should now be given the chance to 'get-in line,' while pursuing post-secondary education, obtain legal status and become citizens of the country they call home, the United States of America; and

Whereas, no one gains from the creation of a permanent underclass that would come about as a result of denying these students the opportunity to pursue higher education; and Whereas, the United States of America needs young, educated and hard-working adults to compete in the global political economy; and

Whereas, the federal passage of the DREAM Act would make legally self-evident what is true in "de facto": these undocumented students belong in our post-secondary institutions and are an American investment that we must not squander; and

Whereas, these students cannot afford to wait until Congress solves all the problems of our broken immigration system;

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that The DC Latino Caucus stands in strong support of S.952: Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2011, introduced in the U.S. Senate on May 11, 2011, a bill that will allow thousands of young students that have lived in the United States for years, and call it home, to realize their education dream and give them a path to legalizing their immigration status.
2. **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the DC Latino Caucus also stands in strong support of a DC DREAM act specific to DC that will allow DC young adults to fulfill their education dream at the State University and Community College with the same privileges given to other DC residents.