



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

October 28, 2013

Ms. Mary E. Lyons, Ph.D.
President, University of San Diego
Office of the President
Hughes Administration Center, 222
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, California 92110-2492

Dear President Lyons:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for comprehensive immigration reform. It is helpful for me to have the University of San Diego's input on this issue, and I sincerely apologize for the delay in my response. For security reasons, postal mail is routed to an off-site facility for testing before it is released to my office, and your letter was delayed in the process.

The U.S. immigration system is not working for families, businesses, and communities in California, which is why on June 27, I joined 67 of my fellow Senators in passing comprehensive immigration reform legislation, known as the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act" (S. 744), by a bipartisan vote of 68 to 32.

This bill provides a practical way for undocumented immigrants to earn citizenship that would be contingent upon securing our borders, addressing the problem of foreign nationals who overstay their visas, and deterring future illegal immigration through the implementation of an effective and mandatory employment verification system. It would also improve our legal immigration system by reducing backlogs in the family and employment visa categories, and to facilitate the world's best and brightest ability to work and stay in the United States.

I share your concern for foreign-born children who, through no fault of their own, find themselves with no legal immigration status in the United States. Many of these young adults were brought to California as children years ago, attended elementary and high school here, and consider this country home. I believe that it is in the Nation's best interest to give talented youth who have good moral character and are dedicated to serving the United States the opportunity to succeed.

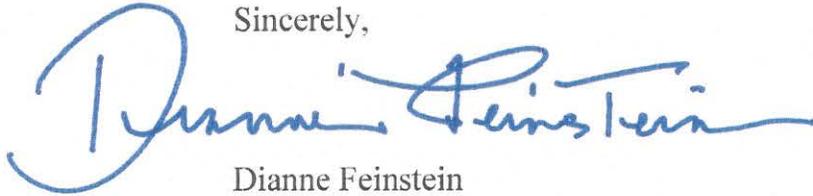
The "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act," commonly known as the "DREAM Act," would provide such an opportunity. It would permit undocumented youth raised in the United States to apply for legal status if they attend college or serve in our military. Please know that I have supported the "DREAM Act" every Congress since it was first introduced in 2001.

I am pleased to share with you that S. 744 includes a provision that would allow individuals eligible for the "DREAM Act" to become naturalized citizens after only five years. To qualify, individuals must have initially entered the United States before age 16, earned a high school diploma, and either completed at least two years of college or served at least four years in the military. There would be no age cap on eligibility.

I firmly believe that now is the time to reform our broken immigration system, and that S. 744 represents a major breakthrough. I will certainly be mindful of your views as this debate continues.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If I may be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my immigration counsel, Emilie Hyams, in my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-4933. Best regards.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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