

September 21, 2010

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 3453: FY 2011 Defense Authorization & DREAM Act

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, I urge your support for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) through three affirmative votes this week concerning S. 3454, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Specifically, the Lawyers' Committee asks you to:

- vote YES on invoking cloture to proceed to the FY 2011 Defense Authorization on Tuesday, September 21, 2010;
- vote YES on invoking cloture to amend the DREAM Act to the FY 2011 Defense Authorization later in the week; and
- vote YES on the final passage of FY 2011 Defense Authorization.

Founded in 1963, the Lawyers' Committee's major objective is to use the skills and resources of the bar to obtain equal opportunity for minorities by addressing factors that contribute to racial justice and economic opportunity. Particularly, our Educational Opportunities project seeks to guarantee that all students receive equal educational opportunities in public schools and institutions of higher learning. The DREAM Act supports such goals by incentivizing education as a way to achieve permanent resident status for alien residents.

The Lawyers' Committee believes education is a civil right and equal access to education should be protected regardless of an individual's race, ethnicity or national origin. Students should not be penalized for their parents' decisions to come to the United States illegally. Approximately 65,000 students per year, who come to the United States as children, desire to continue their education after successfully navigating elementary and secondary education. The DREAM Act rewards those students who seek academic achievement and encourages individual professional development by requiring them to demonstrate either a significant investment in their human capital or service to the United States through membership in the armed forces, in-turn, benefiting long-term American sustainability.

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Please support the attachment of the DREAM Act to the FY2011 Defense Authorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tanya Clay House". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tanya Clay House
Director of Public Policy

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