



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

June 27, 2011

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin,

On behalf of the Association of Research Libraries, I write in strong support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or the DREAM Act. Thank for your continuing leadership on this critically important issue, which will ensure access to higher education and military service for approximately 65,000 youth as well as provide a pathway towards citizenship for these individuals.

The DREAM Act would establish a six-year conditional permanent residency status for students who were brought to this country before the age of 16, have been here at least five years as of the enactment date, graduate from a U.S. high school or obtain a GED credential, and meet other requirements. DREAM-eligible individuals may qualify for permanent residency after six years by completing at least two years of higher education or military service. There are sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that only qualified individuals may benefit from the DREAM Act.

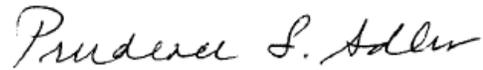
Two National Academy of Sciences reports, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm, Revisited: Rapidly Approaching Category 5," and "Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future," provide a series of recommendations that must be addressed if the United States is to remain competitive, innovative, and economically sound in the years ahead. The Academy notes that education is a key factor in achieving and sustaining these goals. The DREAM Act would be an important and essential component in educating many of our future leaders and workers who will be critical to America's future.

The link between educational attainment, our Nation's economy and the DREAM Act was confirmed in the study, [No DREAMers Left Behind: The Economic Potential of DREAM Act Beneficiaries](#). Authors of this study stated, "beyond the direct and indirect economic impacts of a more productive, legal workforce, the DREAM Act represents an opportunity for American taxpayers to significantly increase the return on our current, and already spent, investment in youths that the public school system educates in their K-12 years. It is common sense to create legislative and policy mechanisms to better ensure an economic return on this taxpayer investment. Passing the DREAM Act enhances national economic earnings by developing a highly educated workforce that will contribute trillions of dollars to the U.S. economy. A higher supply of skilled

students would also advance the U.S. global competitive position in science, technology, medicine, education, and many other endeavors.”

For these and other reasons, there is deep and diverse support in the public and private sectors across the United States for the DREAM Act. I look forward to working with you to ensure prompt passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Prudence S. Adler".

Prudence S. Adler
Associate Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries