



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

December 6, 2010

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

It is my understanding that the "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010" ("the DREAM Act") will soon be debated by the Congress. I am writing in support of passage of the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act would provide a process by which certain students, who have lived most of their lives in our country and excelled through hard work, may obtain conditional nonimmigrant status, and eventually lawful permanent resident status, if they satisfy certain requirements after a period of time. The DREAM Act would also ensure that the individuals who obtain conditional nonimmigrant status are considered, for most purposes, to be lawfully present in the United States.

By taking these steps, the DREAM Act will give certain young people the chance to earn their lawful immigration status by pursuing higher education or by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Many of these individuals came to the United States as young children and know no other country. Like their peers, they have done what was asked of them in their schools, and now hope to achieve even more through the pursuit of a college education or military service.

I strongly urge the Congress to pass this bill because I believe that it will play an important part in our efforts to meet the Administration's goals of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Even more, it will allow these young people to live up to their fullest potential and contribute to the economic growth of our country. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne Duncan".

Arne Duncan



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December 6, 2010

Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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