



GET ACTIVE WITH #AFFORDTODREAM Support Equal Access to Student-Generated, Institutional Aid

What is student-generated, institutional aid? Who has access?

- **Institutional Aid is student-generated funds** that colleges set aside from tuition revenue to be used as need-based aid to support students with demonstrated financial need.
- Institutional Aid is funded by tuition dollars that all students pay, **it's not tax or state funded**. CT state colleges & universities are required to set aside a percentage of tuition revenue for this aid
- Undocumented immigrant students contribute to these funds by paying tuition, but DO NOT have access to the pool of aid they help fund.
- ***This in unjust***- if your tuition dollars fund this aid, you should be able to access this aid if you have financial need!
- **Why can't all students access this?** The problem is that the aid is distributed based on the FAFSA needs analysis, which undocumented students cannot fill out. There is nothing in the CT regulations that bar immigrant students from having access, the barrier is technical one.

OUR GOAL: Equalize access to student-generated, institutional aid at CT public colleges and Universities to all CT resident in-state students regardless of their immigration status.

THE SOLUTION: The CT Legislature must pass legislation that creates a fair application process that allows ALL Connecticut in-state resident students who contribute to institutional aid to have access regardless of immigration status.

There is legislation in Connecticut that would make this real!

[HB7000: An Equalizing Access to Student Generated Aid](#) and

[SB 17: An Act Assisting Students Without Legal Immigration Status With the Cost of Higher Education.](#)

Why should I support?

It's an economic investment in Connecticut's future:

- Educating CT's students, including undocumented students, will help grow Connecticut's economy and expand CT's tax base. The non-partisan Institute on Taxation Policy estimates that undocumented individuals in Connecticut currently pay over \$136 million in taxes.
- According to an estimate from a 2009 RAND Corporation report, the completion of a college degree raises lifetime tax contribution by at least \$68,000.
- Equalizing access to institutional aid to undocumented students will cost taxpayers nothing. The Fiscal Analysis Office reported last session this measure has no fiscal impact.

There is a broad base of support for equalizing access to institutional aid:

- In both the 2016 and 2015 session, a similar measure was voted out of committee on a bipartisan vote and passed the Senate with bipartisan support, with over thirty co-sponsors.
 - Officials at the University of Connecticut, at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) System, and at the Board of Regents of Higher Education support the bill.
 - The challenges faced by undocumented immigrant students affect constituents in every district.
 - This common-sense reform has been adopted by states as diverse as Texas, California, Minnesota, Washington and New Mexico.
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How can I support?

1. Contact your Legislators:

Contacting your legislators to express your support is one of the most important things you can do!
Find the legislator that represents your district: bit.ly/c4dcalling

Script: "Hello, my name is _____, I'm a member of [organization or group] I'm calling Rep or Senator _____ to express my support for HB7000/SB17: An Equalizing Access to Student Generated Aid . This bill equalizes access to student-generated, institutional aid at CT public colleges and Universities to all CT's students regardless of their immigration status. Institutional financial aid is funded by tuition revenue, undocumented students pay into this fund and should have access to it like all other students. I urge the Representative OR Senator to support HB7000/SB17. Do you know what (Sen OR Rep) _____'s stance is on HB7000? Thank you"

2. Share your Story with us:

Stories are our most powerful tool! Our stories have power - through sharing our stories we can shift our legislators and ask them to support our dreams.

Share your story with us and share why YOU need institutional aid to become a reality and what having access to aid would mean to you and your future!

Do you know youth and families who would benefit from this? Can you share your story as an ally about why you believe this is important?

Share your story here: bit.ly/C4Dstory

3. Collect Petitions:

As part of the #AffordtoDream campaign we will be collecting petitions to gather support! We are collecting petitions to show our legislators there are power in numbers! Can you help collect petitions in the community or at your school? At an upcoming event? Please go to bit.ly/PrintPetition2017 to download the #AffordtoDream petition paper. How can you collect petitions?

- Have the petitions at meetings or events
- Set up a table! Organize a petition tabling in your school.
- Pass the petition around in your classes
- Collect signatures using clipboards
- Ask your friends and community

If you collect paper petitions signatures, please email camila@ct4adream.org, we can coordinate to get them from you via email or in person.

You can also sign our online petition at: <http://bit.ly/C4Dpetition2017>

Please support HB7000 and SB17 which would equalize access to student-generated, institutional aid to all in-state CT resident students regardless of immigration status.

Connecticut Students for a Dream is a youth-led statewide network fighting for the rights of undocumented youth and their families.
www.ct4adream.org | [@CT4aDREAM](https://twitter.com/CT4aDREAM) | info@ct4adream.org