SUPPORT SB 2196: THE STUDENT ACCESS BILL

House Sponsors: Hernandez-Pritchard-Ammons-Mayfield-Guzzardi
Senate Sponsors: Martinez-McGuire-Stean-Sandoval-Hastings

Provide Equal Access to Financial Aid at 4-Year Public Universities

The Student ACCESS bill will provide legal authority to 4-year public universities in Illinois to provide financial aid to undocumented students who already qualify for in-state tuition.

Undocumented students are currently ineligible to receive federal student aid, Pell grants, Illinois’ MAP grant and other forms of state-based financial aid. However, federal law allows individual state legislatures to offer undocumented students eligibility for state financial aid. Passage of the Student ACCESS bill would allow 4-year public universities to offer financial aid to every student enrolled at their institution on a competitive basis. The legislation will not, however, make undocumented students eligible to apply for the MAP grant.

The Student ACCESS bill is revenue neutral!

The legislation does not have a fiscal impact because it does not require the state to appropriate additional resources for higher education or increase spending for state-funded scholarship programs. The bill simply provides 4-year public universities the legal authority to offer financial aid to undocumented students who already qualify for in-state tuition. The legislation does not create an entitlement, a new state scholarship program or provide undocumented students with a competitive advantage when applying for financial aid.

How many students would this apply to?

The University of Illinois at Chicago estimates that the Student ACCESS bill would provide new scholarship opportunities for roughly 1,500 undocumented students across all 4-year public universities in Illinois. These students account for 1 percent of total enrollment at 4-year public universities, which serve more than 144,000 students.

Doesn’t the Illinois Dream Fund provide financial aid?

Undocumented students currently have access to in-state tuition and they may apply for scholarships provided by the privately funded Illinois Dream Fund. In 2014, 1,720 students applied for a scholarship through the Illinois Dream Fund. However, the Illinois Dream Fund was only able to award 26 students a scholarship ranging from $2,000-$6,000. Over the last three years, the program has been unable to assist 98 percent of applicants due to insufficient private resources.

Which other states have similar laws?

There are 5 states that provide some form of state-based financial aid to undocumented students: California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas and Washington. There are 18 states that provide undocumented students who meet certain criteria with access to in-state tuition, including Illinois. Data suggests that providing in-state tuition and access to financial aid increases the high school graduation and college enrollment rates of undocumented students.1

Why should I support the Student ACCESS Bill?

Many college students depend on some form of financial aid in order to complete their education. Students who work long hours or multiple jobs find it harder to succeed and complete their degrees. The state has already invested considerable resources in the primary and secondary education of undocumented students. Providing access to financial aid will help students complete their degrees, enter the workforce and ensure Illinois secures a return on its investment.

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1 Educators for Fair Consideration, “The Case for Undocumented Students in Higher Education.”
Public Supporters of the Student ACCESS Bill

**HIGHER EDUCATION**
- Chicago State University
- DePaul University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Governors State University
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Illinois State University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Southern Illinois University
- University of Illinois
- Western Illinois University

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**
- Black Graduate Student Association (UIUC)
- Culturally Integrated Education for Latinos Organization (UIS)
- Coalition for Accessible Scholarships for Everyone (UIUC)
- Dream Action NIU
- Dreamers and Allies Student Organization (Arrupe College)
- Fearless Undocumented Alliance (UIC)
- Hispanic Student Dental Association (UIC)
- Latino Educators United for Change-LUCHA (UIC)
- Latino/a Studies Graduate Student Organization (UIUC)
- Mexican Students de Aztlan (UIC)
- Movimiento Latino (UIC)
- Philippine Student Association (UIUC)
- Students for Justice in Palestine (UIC)
- Undocumented Resilient & Organized (NEIU)
- Undocumented Students and Allies (IIT)
- Union for Puerto Rican Students (UIC)
- United Students Against Sweatshops (UIC)

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS**
- Former Governor Jim Edgar
- Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel
- Former Governor Jim Edgar
- Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza
- Cook County B. President Toni Preckwinkle
- Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs
- Urbana Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing

**LABOR**
- AFSCME Local 3700
- Chicago Teachers Union
- Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Non-Tenure Faculty Coalition Local #6546
- SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana
- SEIU Illinois Council
- SEIU Local 73
- UIC Graduate Employees Organization
- UIC United Faculty
- UIUC Campus Faculty Association
- UIUC Graduate Employees Organization

**BUSINESS & CIVIC LEADERS**
- Dave Bender, Exec. Director, American Council of Engineering Companies of IL
- C.W. Chan, Chairman, Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
- Omar Duque, President/CEO, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Billy Lawless, Board Member, Illinois Restaurant Association
- Max Levchin, Founder, PayPal; Founder & CEO, Affirm
- John Rowe, Co-Chair, Illinois Business Immigration Coalition; Chairman Emeritus, Exelon
- Jesse Ruiz, Partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
- Sam Scott, Chairman, Chicago Sister Cities; Former CEO, Corn Products International
- Darryl Tom, President, Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce

**FAITH-BASED LEADERS & ORGANIZATIONS**
- Catholic Conference of Illinois
- Father Brendan Curran, Dominican University
- Father Jose Santiago, Pastor, St. Pius V Church
- Illinois Hispanic Pastors Association
- John Paul II Newman Center at UIC
- Lutheran Advocacy – Illinois
- Project IRENE

**NONPROFITS & ASSOCIATIONS**
- Advance Illinois
- Alianza Americas
- Alvio Medical Center
- Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment
- Anti-Defamation League
- Arab American Action Network
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago
- Aspira Inc. of Illinois
- Association of Latinos Motivating Action
- Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
- Casa Michoacán
- Centro de Información
- Centro de Trabajadores Unidos
- Centro Romero
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Chicago Community and Workers Rights
- Citizen Action Illinois
- Community Activism Law Alliance
- Community Renewal Society
- Dare to Dream: Get Educated
- Enlace Chicago
- Erie Neighborhood House
- Equality Illinois
- Fight for $15
- Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
- Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC)
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education
- Interfaith Leadership Project
- Japanese American Service Committee
- Kenwood Oakland Community Organization
- Korean American Community Services
- Korean American Resource and Cultural Center
- Latin@ Youth Action League
- Latino Policy Forum
- Latino Resources
- Latinos Progresando
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
- MALDEF Midwest Regional Office
- Metropolitan Family Services
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- National Council of Jewish Women – Chicago North Shore
- National Museum of Mexican Art
- National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture
- National Partnership for New Americans
- Onward Neighborhood House
- Organized Communities Against Deportations
- Ounce of Prevention Fund
- P.A.S.O.-West Suburban Action Project
- Planetaxlive
- Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
- Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- South Asian American Policy & Research Institute
- Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project
- Southwest Organizing Project
- Spanish Community Center
- Telpochcalli Community Education Project
- The Resurrection Project
- Trickster Art Gallery
- United African Organizations
- United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations
- Voices for Illinois Children
- Women Employed
- Young Invincibles

Jennifer Creasey | Director State Relations | University of Illinois | jcreasey@uillinois.edu | 217-493-6416
Martin Torres | Associate Director | Latino Policy Forum | mtorres@latinopolicyforum.org | 630-709-3434