

## SUPPORT SB 2196: THE STUDENT ACCESS BILL

*House Sponsors: Hernandez-Pritchard-Ammons-Mayfield-Guzzardi*

*Senate Sponsors: Martinez-McGuire-Steans-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.<sup>1</sup>

#### **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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<sup>1</sup> 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 Aztlán (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  
Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza  
Cook County Bd. 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  
Alivio 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  
Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.

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  
Illinois School Counselor Association  
Instituto del Progreso Latino  
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 Council of Jewish Women – Illinois State Policy Advocacy Network  
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 Organization  
United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations  
Voices for Illinois Children  
Women Employed  
Young Invincibles