

Passed by unanimous  
Consent 3/24/15

AR 37- In Support of the Texas Dream Act

Authors: Mr. Ruben Cardenas (*Representative, Moody College of Communication*), Mr. Taral Patel (*Representative, University-Wide*)

Sponsors: Ms. Annie Albrecht (*Representative, College of Liberal Arts*), Ms. Marisa Beyerlein (*Representative, Moody College of Communication*), Mr. Ruben Cardenas (*Representative, Moody College of Communication*), Mr. Sergio Cavazos (*Chair, Legislative Affairs Committee*), Ms. Liana Lo Chau (*Representative, School of Nursing*), Ms. Shannon Geison (*Representative, University-Wide*), Mr. Anish Patel (*Representative, College of Natural Sciences*), Mr. Taral Patel (*Representative, University-Wide*), Ms. Valentina Rodriguez (*Representative, College of Architecture*)

WHEREAS, Student Government serves as the official voice of students at The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, the University of Texas at Austin is dedicated to promoting fair representation and equal treatment of all its students through support, service and advocacy of policies encouraging educational equity<sup>12</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Texas became the first state to adopt legislation, HB 1403, allowing students who met certain requirements, regardless of immigration status, to qualify for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities<sup>3 4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, this landmark measure, HB 1403 passed with bipartisan support, has since inspired the creation of similar laws, with at least sixteen other states now extending in-state tuition rates to certain immigrant students<sup>5 6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, These young people, brought to the United States as children, include valedictorians, honor students, and student body leaders seeking to pursue postsecondary education to facilitate meaningful integration into the workforce<sup>7</sup>; and

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.utexas.edu/about-ut/mission-core-purpose-honor-code>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.utexas.edu/equity>

<sup>3</sup> [www.academia.edu/2601910/A\\_Cost-](http://www.academia.edu/2601910/A_Cost-Benefit_Analysis_of_Texas_House_Bill_1403_An_Act_Relating_to_the_Eligibility_of_Undocumented_Students_to_Qualify_as_In-State_Residents_for_the_Purposes_of_Higher_Education_Tuition)

[Benefit\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Texas\\_House\\_Bill\\_1403\\_An\\_Act\\_Relating\\_to\\_the\\_Eligibility\\_of\\_Undocumented\\_Students\\_to\\_Qualify\\_as\\_In-State\\_Residents\\_for\\_the\\_Purposes\\_of\\_Higher\\_Education\\_Tuition](http://www.academia.edu/2601910/A_Cost-Benefit_Analysis_of_Texas_House_Bill_1403_An_Act_Relating_to_the_Eligibility_of_Undocumented_Students_to_Qualify_as_In-State_Residents_for_the_Purposes_of_Higher_Education_Tuition)

<sup>4</sup> <https://world.utexas.edu/issr/students/dreamers/who-is-undocumented>

<sup>5</sup> [texasinsider.org/dream-act-our-leaders-in-washington-could-learn-a-lesson-from-the-texas-model-hb-1403/](http://texasinsider.org/dream-act-our-leaders-in-washington-could-learn-a-lesson-from-the-texas-model-hb-1403/)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/html/HC00040I.htm>

## AR 37- In Support of the Texas Dream Act

WHEREAS, the in-state tuition provides taxpayers a return on years of investment in the public school education of these students, by improving their earning potential, and providing a more robust tax base<sup>8 9</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 these students enrolled in Texas institutions of higher education paid \$51.6 million in tuition and related expenses; and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board calculated that, were these students to be deprived of the incentives offered by in-state tuition, the state's institutions of higher learning could be expected to suffer a yearly net loss of tens of millions of dollars; <sup>10 11</sup> and

WHEREAS, The strength of our economy rests on an educated workforce, and in-state tuition provides a commonsense approach to ensure that intelligent and enterprising Texas youth have access to the training and education that businesses need; now, therefore, be it

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Government at the University of Texas at Austin hereby expresses its support for the Texas Dream Act and urges the Texas Legislature to continue to uphold this vital law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Student Government at the University of Texas at Austin asserts that the continued ability of undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates, as guaranteed by S.B. 1528, is necessary and vital to the success of future generations of Texans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to Mr. Bill Powers, President of the University of Texas at Austin; Mr. Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas; Mr. Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas; Mr. Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Mr. Kirk Watson, Texas State Senator for District 14; Mr. Elliott Naishtat, Texas State Representative for District 49; Mr. Carlos Martinez, Associate Vice President for Government Relations at the University of Texas at Austin, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, and *The Daily Texan*.

---

<sup>8</sup> [http://forabettertexas.org/images/EO\\_2015\\_02\\_TXDreamAct\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://forabettertexas.org/images/EO_2015_02_TXDreamAct_Factsheet.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Overview: Eligibility for In-State Tuition and State Financial Aid Programs, (September 2012).

<sup>10</sup> [http://forabettertexas.org/images/EO\\_2014\\_09\\_PP\\_Immigration.pdf](http://forabettertexas.org/images/EO_2014_09_PP_Immigration.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Fiscal\\_SizeUp/Fiscal\\_SizeUp\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Fiscal_SizeUp/Fiscal_SizeUp_2010-11.pdf).