

By: Anchia

H.C.R. No. 40

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The American dream holds that there are no limits to
2 what one can achieve through hard work and individual merit, and for
3 a great majority of Americans, a quality education is integrally
4 linked to future success; and

5 WHEREAS, Although the advantages that a higher education
6 affords are well known, immigrant students across much of the
7 country are impeded in their efforts to take this crucial step in
8 their career paths; brought to the United States as children, these
9 youths have hopes and aspirations like their U.S.-born peers, and
10 their numbers include valedictorians, honor students, and student
11 body leaders; they had no choice in their parents' decision to enter
12 the United States, yet with few options for allaying the cost of
13 tuition, they are uniquely limited in their ability to pursue a
14 postsecondary education that would allow them meaningful
15 integration into the workforce; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2001, Texas became the first state to adopt a law,
17 H.B. 1403, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, that allowed all
18 resident students, regardless of immigration status, to qualify for
19 in-state tuition and financial aid at public colleges and
20 universities; passed with bipartisan support and later known as the
21 Texas Dream Act, this landmark measure has since inspired the
22 creation of similar laws, with more than a dozen other states now
23 extending in-state tuition rates to undocumented youths; and

24 WHEREAS, The reforms introduced by the Texas Dream Act

1 represent sound fiscal policy, as immigrants constitute a talented,
2 multilingual, and multicultural subset of workers who bring
3 valuable skills to an increasingly global economy; such policy
4 allows taxpayers to see a return on years of investment in the
5 public school education of these individuals, for by improving
6 their earning potential, they will in turn provide for a more robust
7 tax base; and

8 WHEREAS, According to a 2006 report by the Office of the Texas
9 Comptroller of Public Accounts, undocumented immigrants in Texas in
10 2005 generated more in state revenue than they received in state
11 services; in the 2010 fiscal year, close to 16,500 undocumented
12 immigrant students qualified for in-state tuition, and the students
13 themselves paid \$32.7 million in tuition and related expenses; were
14 these students to be deprived of the incentives offered by the Texas
15 Dream Act, the loss to the Texas economy would be considerable, as
16 workers with lower levels of education earn drastically reduced
17 wages on average and face significantly higher rates of
18 unemployment, forcing them to rely more heavily on social services;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The strength of our economy rests on an educated
21 workforce, and the Texas Dream Act provides a commonsense approach
22 to ensure that intelligent and enterprising youth have access to
23 the training and education that businesses need; now, therefore, be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
26 hereby affirm its support for the Texas Dream Act and urge all other
27 U.S. states to enact similar legislation.