

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Higher Education
For HB 232

Compiled on: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:46 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 29, 2025 8:00 AM

Mariana Gaitanos

self

Laredo, TX

Students need TASFA

Reese Hodge

Self

Austin, TX

I am pleading on behalf of myself and anybody who relies on TAFSA funds to not terminate these educational funds. It would have a significant impact on people's ability to continue their education. Thank you.

Juan Puente

Self

Laporte, TX

Everybody has the right for education no matter where they are from, this will increase everything at the long run

Kellie Ridlehuber

self

Lubbock, TX

HB 232 is bad for Texas. In-state tuition helps keep our workforce strong by allowing more students to access higher education and develop the skills our economy needs. Removing this access for undocumented students would reduce college enrollment and hurt long-term economic growth. I urge the committee to vote NO on this bill.

Nicholas Mollberg, Mr.

Self, software sales

Austin, TX

How does repealing the dream act help future generations of texans? This is utterly self sabotaging and deliberately hurtful to Dreamers. These individuals are part of the American story, and are striving to better themselves, and texas. I didn't agree with Governor Perry on much, but seeing him sign this into law was a rare bright spot in his term. It is pointless and destructive to repeal the dream act.

Christin Lavery
Leatherface Tree Service LLC
Garland, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am co-owner of a tree service in Dallas.

As representatives of Texas's business community, we write to express our strong opposition to HB 232, which threatens to unravel the proven economic and workforce benefits of the Texas Dream Act. For more than 20 years, this policy has been a critical economic tool—helping thousands of Texas high school graduates pursue higher education, fill essential workforce needs, and contribute meaningfully to our state's prosperity.

Texas led the nation in 2001 by enacting the Dream Act, and since then, dozens of other states have followed our example, recognizing—as we did—that talent and ambition should be nurtured, not turned away. The success of Texas's economy has always been tied to the strength of our people. Ensuring access to education for those who want to meaningfully contribute is a hallmark of what has made Texas, and the United States, a global leader. A rising tide lifts all ships—and maintaining a strong, educated workforce lifts our economy, our businesses, and our communities alike.

We urge lawmakers to view this debate through an economic and workforce lens. The data is clear:

Repealing the Texas Dream Act could cost the state more than \$461 million annually in lost economic activity—including \$244.4 million in lost wages and \$216.9 million in diminished spending power.

Beneficiaries of the Texas Dream Act have collectively earned \$33 billion more than they would have without access to higher education, generating over \$28.5 billion in additional economic output for Texas.

In fiscal year 2021 alone, these students contributed \$81.6 million in tuition and fees, directly supporting Texas's higher education institutions.

More broadly, undocumented immigrants contributed \$5.4 billion in state and local taxes in 2023 and comprise 9% of the Texas workforce.

Simply put, the Texas Dream Act has worked—and it has worked without documented issues. There is no compelling reason to dramatically alter a law that has produced two decades of positive results for our workforce, our businesses, and our economy. Proposals to add age restrictions, increase barriers, or introduce punitive measures would create uncertainty, deter future economic contributors, and impose administrative burdens on schools and businesses. We believe Texas must continue to lead by example—championing policies that enhance our competitiveness, not diminish it.

Texas's greatest asset is its people. When we invest in those who are eager to contribute to our economy, everyone benefits.

Preserving access to higher education is not only a moral imperative—it is an economic necessity.

We appreciate your leadership and your continued willingness to engage with the business community on this critical issue. We urge you to safeguard Texas's future by rejecting HB 232.

Respectfully,
Christin Lavery

John Stautner
ETSSZONE
The Woodlands, TX

To Whom it May Concern: As a business owner in Texas who works with companies that rely on the availability of an educated, skilled workforce, I have seen first hand that Texas companies have a shortage of educated professionals and skilled crafts people in our state. If we have young immigrants who grew up in our Texas communities who are looking to better themselves through education and who have already been educated through the high school level, why would we make it harder for them access the opportunity to continue their learning and development in Texas colleges and institutions of higher education? It just doesn't make business or economic sense. We should give immigrants with merit the same opportunity as other Texans to educate themselves and make meaningful contributions to our businesses and society. Therefore I am opposed to HB 232.

Christopher Russo
Texans for Strong Borders
El Lago, TX

My name is Chris Russo, President of Texans for Strong Borders, and we are strongly in favor of repealing in-state tuition on illegal aliens, and for that reason we largely support the intent of HB 232 as filed and as substituted.

For more than two decades, Texas has provided in-state tuition and taxpayer-funded financial aid to individuals who are unlawfully present in the United States. This was ill-advised even at the time—but today, the number of illegal aliens enrolled in higher education in Texas has ballooned to over 56,000, and a 2023 FAIR study assessed the annual cost to Texas taxpayers at over \$150 million. This policy is also unfair to Texas students whose seats may be taken by people who have no legal right to reside in our state or work in the United States after graduation.

CSHB 232 would largely end this practice in Texas.

However, we have several concerns about the committee substitute we would like to bring to your attention:

The committee substitute states that a person who is not authorized by statute to reside in the United States "may be held liable for the difference between resident and nonresident tuition under Subsection(a)." Institutions of higher education may reclaim these funds only if:

- (1) The person has not provided sufficient information regarding an application for permanent residence as described by Section 54.053(3) OR
- (2) The person provided the information described by Subdivision (1) but the person's application for permanent residence was subsequently denied regardless of whether the application was denied after the person graduated from the institution of higher education.

The above section appears to open a substantial loophole in the establishment of residency because it contains no enforcement mechanism or ongoing requirement to establish residency after the person has been granted resident tuition rates.

Under the structure of the committee substitute, a person could apply for permanent residency knowing they do not qualify for it, provide proof of application to the institution of higher education to gain resident tuition rates, then neglect to provide their notification of rejection since they would not normally need to re-establish residency while in attendance

Since 8 U.S.C. § 1182 establishes a 10-year restriction on admissibility to the United States for those who have been unlawfully present for more than one year, it would be unlikely that a prospective student covered by this section would qualify for legal permanent residency.

The best remedies for these concerns are contained in SB 1798 by Sen. Mayes Middleton, which in addition to ending in-state tuition for illegal aliens also addresses state financial aid being given to illegal aliens. As filed, the latter issue would not be germane to HB 232 or its substitute. We strongly recommend that the committee advance SB 1798 upon its passage from the Texas Senate.

If these concerns are addressed, we would support the bill.

Andrew McVeigh

Texans for Fiscal Responsibility / Self, TFR President

The Hills, TX

Texans for Fiscal Responsibility supports the original filed version of HB 232, which responsibly eliminates the loophole in state law that has allowed individuals unlawfully present in the United States to receive in-state tuition at the expense of Texas taxpayers. This reform is long overdue.

Under current law, individuals who are not legally present in the country can receive resident tuition rates if they meet certain criteria tied to high school attendance. This practice places an unfair burden on Texas taxpayers, citizens and lawful residents, who are expected to subsidize tuition discounts for illegal immigrants. The original HB 232 rightly ends this subsidy, aligning tuition policy with both fiscal prudence and the rule of law.

We are deeply concerned, however, by the proposed committee substitute, which reinstates this provision under the guise of documentation requirements. While it appears to tighten eligibility, it still preserves taxpayer-funded benefits for individuals who remain unlawfully present.

The substitute not only undermines the purpose of the original bill but does so by layering on additional statutory complexity. These are distractions from the core principle: Texas taxpayers should not be expected to subsidize tuition for those who have broken federal law.

Supporting the original HB 232 respects taxpayers, upholds immigration law, and ensures state tuition subsidies are reserved for legal residents, legal immigrants, and citizens. It's a clear, enforceable reform that avoids costly entanglements. We urge the committee to reject the substitute language and advance the original version of HB 232.

Timothy Kethley

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

Education is the path to success. All children, youth, and young adults in the state of Texas should have access to public education. Limiting access to education based on legal residency punishes young adults who are trying to be contributing members of society. This legislation does not make us safer it only limits opportunity. Please vote against this legislation and/or withdraw it from consideration.

Brian Williams

Self

Cedar park, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as it unfairly punishes Dreamers who have built their lives in Texas by forcing them to pay out-of-state tuition rates despite graduating from Texas high schools. This legislation reverses years of bipartisan support for these students and creates unnecessary barriers to their education and future contributions to our state.

Mandy Smith

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not proceed with this bill. The vast majority of our immigrant neighbors are friends, colleagues, community members. They want a better life. We all have the right to freedom and education. Don't harm someone because their circumstances aren't the same as others.

Let our friends and neighbors have an education.

Jennifer Larrew

Self

Lakeway, TX

I oppose HB232. I am aware that we are targeting immigrants right now. However, This law was signed by Rick Perry in 2001 and required children to go to high school here in Texas to get in state tuition to college. One person's college education benefits everyone in society. It is inhumane to take this away.

Melissa Knight

Self

Austin, TX

NO NO NO. The anti-Dream Act bill that would strip in-state tuition from undocumented Texas students—they're are our neighbors, our classmates, our future. This is **WRONG** and unconscionable. **EVERYONE** deserves access to quality education.

Debbie Stanley

Self - educator

Pflugerville, TX

I oppose HB 232, the anti-Dream Act bill that would strip in-state tuition from undocumented Texas students—our neighbors, our classmates, our future.

Lorena Tule-Romain, Dr.

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm a product of what is possible when a student has access to higher education. As an undocumented student at UT Austin I paid taxes and now because of that opportunity I continue to generate the great state of Texas contributions beyond taxes. Our state depends on all our students, including those that are undocumented, to ensure meaningful and prosperous future for our state. I urged all our leaders to continue to stand for the future of our students.

Tammi Wallace
Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce
Houston, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

As representatives of Texas's business community, we write to express our strong opposition to HB 232, which threatens to unravel the proven economic and workforce benefits of the Texas Dream Act. For more than 20 years, this policy has been a critical economic tool—helping thousands of Texas high school graduates pursue higher education, fill essential workforce needs, and contribute meaningfully to our state's prosperity.

Texas led the nation in 2001 by enacting the Dream Act, and since then, dozens of other states have followed our example, recognizing—as we did—that talent and ambition should be nurtured, not turned away. The success of Texas's economy has always been tied to the strength of our people. Ensuring access to education for those who want to meaningfully contribute is a hallmark of what has made Texas, and the United States, a global leader. A rising tide lifts all ships—and maintaining a strong, educated workforce lifts our economy, our businesses, and our communities alike.

We urge lawmakers to view this debate through an economic and workforce lens. The data is clear: Repealing the Texas Dream Act could cost the state more than \$461 million annually in lost economic activity—including \$244.4 million in lost wages and \$216.9 million in diminished spending power.

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In fiscal year 2021 alone, these students contributed \$81.6 million in tuition and fees, directly supporting Texas's higher education institutions.

More broadly, undocumented immigrants contributed \$5.4 billion in state and local taxes in 2023 and comprise 9% of the Texas workforce.

Simply put, the Texas Dream Act has worked—and it has worked without documented issues. There is no compelling reason to dramatically alter a law that has produced two decades of positive results for our workforce, our businesses, and our economy.

Proposals to add age restrictions, increase barriers, or introduce punitive measures would create uncertainty, deter future economic contributors, and impose administrative burdens on schools and businesses. We believe Texas must continue to lead by example—championing policies that enhance our competitiveness, not diminish it.

Texas's greatest asset is its people. When we invest in those who are eager to contribute to our economy, everyone benefits. Preserving access to higher education is not only a moral imperative—it is an economic necessity.

We appreciate your leadership and your continued willingness to engage with the business community on this critical issue. We urge you to safeguard Texas's future by rejecting HB 232.

Respectfully,

Tammi Wallace

Krystal Gomez

AILA Texas and Texas Immigration Law Council and Self, Immigration Attorney

Austin, TX

My name is Krystal Gómez. I'm an immigration attorney with 15 years of experience representing immigrant families across our state. I'm here to respectfully oppose CSHB 232.

This bill would significantly restrict access to in-state tuition by excluding countless immigrants who have lawful presence in the United States but who—through no fault of their own and due to the complexities of federal immigration law—may never qualify to apply for lawful permanent residence despite years or even decades of residence in Texas.

Immigration status isn't static—today's Texas Dream Act beneficiary becomes tomorrow's legal permanent resident or US citizen, able to work lawfully in the US.

I have represented hundreds of young Texans who would be harmed by this legislation:

Like DACA recipients, who have been vetted by the federal government, work legally, pay taxes, and contribute to our communities, yet have no statutory pathway to permanent residency under current federal law; Family of military members, and Survivors of crime and domestic violence or persecution with pending applications like U visas or Violence Against Women Act Protection or asylum, who often wait more than 10 years for adjudication of their applications while lawfully residing in Texas.

All of these individuals can be lawfully present for extended periods—sometimes their entire adult lives—without qualifying for permanent residency.

What deeply concerns me as an attorney is that this committee substitute would place these young Texans in an impossible legal position. The bill would effectively coerce 18-year-old students into filing applications for permanent residency that they are not eligible for simply to satisfy the requirement for in-state tuition.

Aside from the outrageous costs— as these applications can cost more than \$3,000. This creates serious legal jeopardy. Under USCIS's Notice to Appear policy (last updated February 28, 2025), individuals whose applications are denied without underlying eligibility are referred directly to immigration court for removal proceedings. We would be incentivizing young people to risk deportation merely to access affordable higher education.

Several of my clients who were educated in Texas thanks to the Dream Act have worked right here in this building as legislative staff, contributing their talents, insights, and hard work to the very institution where we gather today to debate stripping away that ability from future students. They are now legal permanent residents, Citizens, and some, unfortunately, are still stuck renewing their DACA every two years because the federal government has failed to fix our broken immigration system for decades. You've heard testimony from valedictorians, doctors, teachers, and researchers who benefited from the Texas Dream Act. Shouldn't our highly coveted university seats go to the most meritorious applicants?

Susana Carranza, Dr.

self, retired engineer

Austin, TX

I urge this committee to oppose HB 232.

At a time when Texas is already suffering a brain drain, bills like this will only make things worse. It will discourage talented young people from staying in Texas because they will not be able to afford an education. The bill will ruin lots of lives and it will cost a lot of future talent.

Instead of solely focusing on educating young minds, this bill will force our higher learning institutions to worry about the immigration status of their students. I don't think educators in our state signed up to be immigration agents when they chose their profession.

I want to remind this committee that the Texas Dream Act was signed into law by then Governor Rick Perry in 2001. That was a time when Texas conservatives used to understand the value of immigrants and used to call themselves compassionate conservatives. It makes me wonder what you call yourselves now.

Please oppose this bill.

Montserrat Garibay

self

Austin, TX

My name is Montserrat Garibay. I taught in Austin ISD for many years and many of my students had the opportunity to attend college due to (HB1403) in-state tuition for undocumented students. I oppose HB232. For the past twenty plus years students have had the opportunity to go to college and become educators, lawyers, doctors, nurses, business owners and role models in our communities. I am especially grateful of how these individuals assisted our communities during COVID, they were the healthcare workers, educators and community leaders who worked tirelessly to protect our community. Not to mention how much they have contributed to our economy, many are paying higher taxes at the federal, state and local level because now they are able to work under their professions due to the deferred action for childhood arrivals. The students that have benefited from in-state tuition have worked hard to be productive participants in our community. Nothing has been easy for them, they have earned the grades, done their homework and many are bilingual and biliterate. They are making Texas stronger in every sense of the word. I urge YOU to please oppose to HB232. Having an educated workforce is key for our beloved state and economy. Please don't take away the dreams of our students. As an educator, these students are a great example of courage, commitment and resiliency. Thank you for your time and service. Montserrat Garibay

Laura DeGrush

Self, college coach

AUSTIN, TX

Allowing a very small percentage of state funds to go to Texas residents that may not be citizens but pledge to become citizens as soon as it is possible, has greater benefit to Texas safety, Texas education and business, and helps bring Texas families out of poverty to be able to care for the greater community. Redefining Texas residency is only politics and harms Texas safety, education, college economies, the greater business economy, and harms opportunities to empower families. Please do not redefine Texas residency in ways that take away this opportunity for families that have paid taxes and support the Texas economy: doing so harms Texas.

Marian Thompson

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO on this bill. What a cruel idea. These are people who have worked hard and they are upstanding members of society. Please vote NO

Edilsa Lopez

SELF

Austin, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Edilsa Lopez, and I'm here today to speak in strong opposition to H.B. 232

I came to the U.S. as a child, and like many Texas Dreamers, I faced enormous obstacles—from homelessness to discrimination. I didn't even know what college was until my junior year of high school, when teachers saw potential in me and encouraged me to apply. I had no parents, no support system, and no access to federal aid. But I worked tirelessly. I paid my tuition out of pocket through my photography skills and relied on private scholarships and the generosity of educators who held fundraisers for me. My teachers were like angels—they believed in my education when no one else did.

Despite the many barriers, I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin. Today, I'm a professional accountant working for a Fortune 500 company. I help account for millions of dollars, and I pay thousands in taxes every year—and I've never once sought any form of federal assistance. I now send my daughter to a private school because I believe so deeply in the power of education. Let's be clear on this, Undocumented families have contributed to Texas for decades. In 2017 alone, we paid \$1.6 billion in state and local taxes. With more opportunity, that number could grow by \$500 million. And with 60% of jobs in Texas projected to require higher education by 2030, we should be doing everything we can to support—not restrict—access to college.

Right now, around 15,000 undocumented students in Texas pay in-state tuition, often out of pocket or through private scholarships. These students are striving to succeed and give back—that's the whole reason we pursue education. If you think taking away in-state tuition will save money, you're mistaken. It will only block future professionals from joining our workforce. I urge you: show compassion. Don't punish students who've grown up here and are working hard to contribute. Instead of removing support, let's invest in Texas Dreamers. We could be doing so much more if only we were given more opportunities—we've always been limited.

This bill doesn't just hurt students like me—it hurts the future of Texas.

Thank you.

Jessica Howell, Professor

TXUUM

Manchaca, TX

This bill targets the most vulnerable of our community members. Our youth are our future. Oppose HB 232 because it eliminates the previous affidavit provision for non-citizen students and allows institutions to reclassify students as non-residents. The bill's focus on domicile-based residency may disproportionately impact students with a history of residency in Texas, but who might have moved away for temporary reasons, such as military service or working outside of Texas. The bill would further restrict access to education and should not be passed.

Sophia Mirto

self

Austin, TX

Every family in Texas deserves the same chance I got to access education with in-state tuition and scholarships.

The Dream Act passed the Texas house 142-1 and 27-3 in the Senate. It was nearly consensus 24 years ago. Back then, basically everyone acknowledged that our economy is stronger because of immigration.

We are currently experiencing a brain drain of highly educated doctors, scientists, engineers - people on work visas are leaving the United States already and we are going to fall behind other major world powers because we are passing legislation like this, that disincentivizes highly educated people from getting their education here and staying here to work.

Domestic and international immigration is essential for our thriving tech industry here in central Texas. We are losing business to California and Washington because we have such a hostile environment for civil rights, and now this body is considering making it harder for our own residents to access higher education. Everyone who works here in Texas pays taxes, we all pay sales tax. We are one of the wealthiest states in the country with a 33 billion dollar budget surplus. We could make college free for every single Texan - that would explode state revenue and skyrocket our economy. Instead, this legislation would do the opposite.

As a citizen and a Texan I want every Texan to have access to affordable education and job training. I want my tax dollars to be used to educate the next generation of scientists, engineers, artists, and entrepreneurs, and I do not appreciate the state of Texas considering going back on our word To these families, who made House-buying decisions, work decisions, and life decisions based on this promise of affordable education For their children.

Texans know the importance of keeping your word and shooting Straight. I want my state government to make morally defensible decisions and keep it's word. This bill hurts our economy, it hurts our workforce, and it hurts the reputation of Texas as we show ourselves playing bait and switch To families on the international stage.

Jordan Yeck

Self

Dallas, TX

This bill is disastrous because minors cannot control where they are born, where they move and anything regarding their citizenship. EDUCATION should be a constitutional right and the way that it is being treated by our legislative representatives is a disgusting. Texas 89th lege is attempting to completely privatize education for students under 18 or having complete control over what is being taught in Universities to technical adults. I want future Texans to have access to education but access to higher education to create a thriving life for themselves and to contribute to the Texas economy. All children and young adults should be allowed to an all-inclusive education. Taking away the option of in-state tuition for students that are not citizens is anti-moral and disregards the health and general welfare to children who want to better their lives.

KayLynn Lyon

Self, Educator

Farmers Branch, TX

I am vehemently opposed to HB 232. You should be too! We deserve better.

Andrea Ramirez

Self

Bulverde, TX

Chairman Buckley, Vice Chair Talarico, and members of the House Public Education Committee:

I am submitting this public comment as a concerned Texan in strong opposition to House Bill 232, which seeks to repeal the Texas DREAM Act—a policy in place since 2001 that allows certain undocumented students who have graduated from Texas high schools and established long-term residency in the state to pay in-state tuition rates at Texas public colleges and universities.

This policy has stood for over two decades as a beacon of educational equity and bipartisan vision. Its repeal would represent a regressive step with deep economic, social, moral, and mental health consequences not just for the students directly affected but for the future prosperity of our state.

Repealing the DREAM Act would deal a blow to Texas's long-term economic interests. As Texas continues to grow, so too does the demand for a skilled, educated workforce. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, industries such as healthcare, technology, and education are facing persistent shortages in qualified personnel. Dreamer students—many of whom pursue degrees in high-need areas like nursing, teaching, engineering, and public health—are part of the solution.

According to Every Texan (formerly the Center for Public Policy Priorities): The average college graduate in Texas earns \$20,000 more per year than someone with just a high school diploma. DREAMers who graduate from Texas universities contribute significantly to the state's tax base, economic activity, and consumer spending. Furthermore, Texas taxpayers already invest in the K–12 education of these students. Denying them the opportunity to pay in-state tuition simply wastes that investment, squandering both potential and economic returns.

Students who are undocumented or from mixed-status families already navigate chronic stress, anxiety, and uncertainty due to their immigration status. For many, higher education offers the hope of stability and a path to contribute meaningfully to society. By removing access to affordable higher education through the repeal of the DREAM Act, HB 232 exacerbates the mental health crisis faced by undocumented youth.

HB 232 seeks to punish young people for decisions they did not make. Many were brought to this country as children and know no other home. To deny them access to affordable college tuition is to deny them the right to improve their lives through education—a core American value.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the House Public Education Committee to Vote No on HB 232 and affirm Texas's commitment to educational equity.

At the heart of this debate is a simple question: Do we believe in the potential of every young Texan, or only some? Texas has long been a leader. It was the first state to pass a DREAM Act. Let us not be the first to undo it.

Thank you for your consideration!

Richard (Rick) Noriega, Major General (Ret)

Self

Houston, TX

Oppose

Maribel Rosas-Gomez, Ms.

Self, Production Associate

Austin, TX

Personal Statement on Support of In-State Tuition Regarding H.B. 1403 (77R), Against HB 232

My name is Maribel Rosas-Gomez, and I am originally from Veracruz, Mexico. I came to the United States in 2000 and have made Austin, Texas, my home since then. I take pride in being a product of public education, having graduated from Lanier High School.

In 2022, I attended Austin Community College to get certified as a Production Technician. Thanks to in-state tuition and a scholarship that made funds accessible to me, I was able to achieve this goal. I'm currently studying for the Advanced Manufacturing Specialization Level 1 Certificate in Engineering Technology and Accounting Tax Specialist.

In-state tuition helps make higher education affordable and accessible for undocumented students. It allows us to pursue our educational goals without the overwhelming burden of out-of-state tuition rates. If we lose access to in-state tuition, it will only delay our educational journey and create additional financial stress.

Education is a treasure that you can carry with you wherever you go, which is why I have chosen to pursue higher education. I believe that the more educated I become, the better parent I will be for my three children. This belief motivates me to continue my educational journey. When you educate one person, you educate an entire community.

I asked myself why the State of Texas, which became the First State to grant undocumented immigrants in-state tuition on June 16, 2001, is trying to deprive us of this crucial benefit. According to the American Immigration Council, "Immigrant residents, including undocumented immigrants and DACA-eligible residents, play an important role in the state's economy, contributing spending power and paying federal, state, and local taxes."

The data clearly indicates that Texas benefits from immigrants who pursue higher education and contribute to the state's economy. Since Texas provided this opportunity through H.B. 1403 in 2001, why should we lose this benefit? I strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to eliminate in-state tuition for immigrant students. In 2001, you recognized the importance of this policy in providing them with a fair opportunity to pursue higher education. Please support initiatives that encourage immigrants to seek higher education, as they will significantly contribute to the future workforce and economic vitality of our state.

Source:

Immigrants in Texas (no date) American Immigration Council. Available at:
<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/texas/> (Accessed: 26 April 2025)

Susan Spruce

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly object to item (c) in SECTION 1 which denies in-state tuition to immigrant students who are undocumented. Many students in Texas were brought to Texas as infants or children and have not yet had a chance to legalize their status. Those seeking higher education are often very good students with the potential to benefit the work force of our state and society at large. Texas has long offered these students the same right to a more affordable education at a state university and should continue to do so. Suddenly depriving them of this right is mean and cruel and NOT in the best interest of any Texan. These are neighbors and community members.

We need to give them the respect and best opportunity to be productive citizens in the future. Keep our law as it stands now — giving the undocumented students living in Texas access to lower-cost, in-state tuition.

Mary Rios

Self

Austin, TX

I strenuously object to item (c) in SECTION 1 which denies the right of in-state tuition to immigrant students who are undocumented. As the members of the Legislature well know, many bright and promising students in Texas were brought to this country during infancy or childhood and have never had the opportunity to regularize (legalize) their status here. Many of these individuals are high achievers with the potential to contribute to Texas and to society at large. To deny them the same right to a more affordable education at a state university after Texas has for years done the reasonable and just thing by including them with their peers as beneficiaries of in-state tuition, is cruel and unnecessary, and makes Texas look as though it is pandering to a fringe of our country that dislikes immigrants no matter who they are. I urge the members of the Legislature to resist this temptation and maintain the law as it currently reads.

Calista Herbert

Self

Houston, TX

Please oppose this bill. Former Texas Governor Rick Perry supported the original Texas Dream bill from 2001 because he supported allowing undocumented students who completed high school in Texas in-state college tuition. He did this with the understanding that having higher-educated folks in our state is beneficial to everyone. Please oppose this bill which would take away this benefit.

Charlotte Haney

Self

Houston, TX

I am a teacher. I teach Geography and Economics. Right now our birthrate is 1.6. We do not have enough young people to keep our economy strong. Wasting our young people will cost us our future. I had three undocumented students teach themselves BC Calculus in a broom closet. How can we afford to waste such talent and determination? I want a strong TX economy.

Joe Posada-Triana

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Members of the Higher Education Committee,

I am a deeply concerned constituent and higher education professional from Dallas, Texas. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 232, which seeks to repeal critical provisions that enable undocumented students to access in-state tuition and state-funded financial aid.

Since the passage of the Texas DREAM Act in 2001, our state has been a national leader in recognizing the academic potential and human dignity of undocumented students. This legislation allows students who have lived in Texas for most of their lives, attended and graduated from Texas high schools, and committed themselves to becoming productive members of our communities to qualify for in-state tuition and limited financial aid. This policy has opened doors to higher education for thousands of young Texans who, without it, would have found college financially out of reach.

House Bill 232 would dismantle this progress by banning the use of state funds to support these students and eliminating their eligibility for resident tuition rates. In doing so, it punishes young people for circumstances far beyond their control—circumstances they did not choose. These students are Texans in every sense of the word except on paper. They pledge allegiance to our flag, speak English, and dream of giving back to our state through service, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Moreover, repealing the Texas DREAM Act would have profound economic consequences. According to a 2023 study by the American Immigration Council, removing in-state tuition eligibility for undocumented students would cost Texas over \$400 million annually in lost wages and tax contributions. Investing in these students is an investment in Texas's future workforce and economy.

As a higher education professional for the last 12 years, I have seen firsthand the resilience, determination, and academic excellence that undocumented students bring to our campuses. Denying them affordable access to college would not only hinder their potential but also undermine Texas's broader goal of creating an educated, competitive workforce in the 21st century.

Educational opportunities should not depend on immigration status. They should be based on merit, hard work, and a commitment to contributing to society—values that these students exemplify.

I urge you to stand on the side of education, economic prosperity, and fairness by voting "NO" on H.B. 232. Our state's future relies on nurturing the talents of all who call Texas home.

Lucy Frost, MS

Self

Manchaca, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. The cruelty to young people who've been raised in this country - even illegally through no fault of their own -- is beyond expression. Our country needs these young people to be educated, to join the work force, to become tax-paying citizens.

Susanna Sharpe, Ms.

Self, Writer/Editor and Musician

AUSTIN, TX

I strenuously object to item (c) in SECTION 1 which denies the right of in-state tuition to immigrant students who are undocumented. As the members of the Legislature well know, many bright and promising students in Texas were brought to this country during infancy or childhood and have never had the opportunity to regularize (legalize) their status here. Many of these individuals are high achievers with the potential to contribute to Texas and to society at large. To deny them the same right to a more affordable education at a state university after Texas has for years done the reasonable and just thing by including them with their peers as beneficiaries of in-state tuition, is cruel and unnecessary, and makes Texas look as though it is pandering to a fringe of our country that dislikes immigrants no matter who they are. I urge the members of the Legislature to resist this temptation and maintain the law as it currently reads.

Barbara Hines

self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose CS-HB 232. I have been an immigration lawyer for fifty years and a retired professor from the University of Texas Law school where I founded the immigration clinic. I have been involved in immigrant children's access to education since 1975, having worked on Plyer v. Doe. In 2001, I had the honor of assisting Rep. Rick Noriega in the drafting and passage of HB 1403 in 2021, the transformational Texas Dream Act. I met with the then Speaker of the House and others to develop consensus surrounding the bill. Texas was the first state to pass an in-state tuition bill. Since then, 24 states, including Republican led-ones, have followed suit. The bill was passed by an almost unanimous bi-partisan vote and signed by Gov. Perry. Everyone understood at that time and still knows that an educated population serves the interests of Texas and our country. Nothing has changed in 24 years, other than vitriolic rhetoric and xenophobia against immigrant students who have lived their whole lives in Texas. These students have become professionals, educators, lawyers, medical personnel, business owners and more. Many of them who initially filed affidavits of their intent to become permanent residence when able under the current law, have become citizens and permanent residents. If they have not regularized their immigration status, it is due to the failure of Congress to pass immigration reform. The procedures under the proposed bill are unworkable and illegal. Requiring proof of a permanent residence application violates the Supreme Court decision in *Elkins v. Moreno*, 435 U.S. 647 (1978), which ruled that certain non-immigrants, such as G visa holders, may establish domicile for in-state tuition purposes, regardless of an intent to file for residency. The bill would exclude all DACA students because a grant of DACA does not lead to permanent residence. Similarly, other conditional immigration statuses do not lead to permanent residence, for example, a grant of withholding of removal or relief under the Convention Against Torture for those who fear persecution. Attesting to a pending permanent residence application will deny access to many immigrant students who have no means to obtain residence because of gridlock in Congress. Although the bill allows students under age 17 to file an affidavit, when they turn 18, they will be forced to drop out of college. Filing fees for applications are prohibitively expensive. An applicant does not know, at the outset, if his/her application for residence will be approved. If the application is denied, the student becomes liable for repayment of nonresident tuition. This procedure sets up a huge risk for students. It would also be an administrative nightmare for universities to become immigration experts and monitor permanent residence applications. The current law has been a huge success for 24 years and there is no reason to change it. I am proud of my role in its passage. Thank you.

Charim Guadarrama

Self

Brownsville, TX

Good Morning, my name is Charim Guadarrama and I am in opposition to HB232.

I am living proof that by investing in all students, regardless of their immigration status, Texan families thrive.

In 1998, when I was only 14 years old, my family immigrated from Mexico to Texas. Upon arrival, my family experienced firsthand the socio-economic inequities undocumented immigrant families face. We struggled to make ends meet, had limited housing options, and rented a mobile home. Our access to medical care was also limited, and we couldn't afford medical insurance. With unreliable transportation, I walked to school and the corner store for food.

I did not give up, and with the support of citizens like you who voted for fair legislation, House Bill 1403 passed in 2001 and I had the opportunity to not only survive but also had a fair shot at pursuing my dreams.

Through resilience, hard work, and citizens who voted for pro-student legislation, I graduated from high school and subsequently from the University of Texas at Austin. Today, I am a U.S. citizen with a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington and have been a social justice advocate for 15 years. I am a bilingual citizen who votes, pays taxes, works, and advocates for small-town communities along the border in the Rio Grande Valley. In the last thirteen years, I have been part of the backbone of organizations that seek equity for all families. Through my work, thousands of families at the border received school resources, social services, legal aid, food justice, and wellness access. From the students seeking college access to families seeking legal aid and nutritious food, I have paid back tenfold this legislative investment to Texans.

I am a testament to what good legislation can do for Texas communities. I am a catalyst, a connector, and most importantly, a mentor and a leader to the communities you were elected to serve.

As a citizen, taxpayer, and voter, I ask you to vote against HB232. This bill will prevent students like me from giving back to their communities and ensure families continue to thrive in Texas.

JAMES GALLAGHER

self

JONESTOWN, TX

Texas made the right decision on Dreamers years ago. Don't backpedal now. We need these educated young people in the workforce. Reject this bill.

Amy Moore

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a constituent from Austin, Texas, and born and raised in the Texas Panhandle. I'm writing to strongly oppose H.B. 232 because it will eliminate in-state tuition and scholarships for undocumented students.

This bill repeals the Texas DREAM Act of 2001 that allowed undocumented students to claim residency if they met standards adopted by the 77th Texas legislature. This is a misguided bill. It will not save the state money and it will erect barriers for children who have been in our state for most of their lives. I regularly volunteer in several high school classrooms and have conversations with students about their post-high school plans. Many have dreams of higher education, yet this bill will make it almost impossible for them to pursue if it passes. Limiting the dreams of children is not a Texas value, at least not the Texas I grew up in. What should I tell the students I work with? How does it make sense to take away a student's dreams for their future due to circumstances beyond their control?

Please do not close the door on the chance for ALL our Texas students to pursue their higher education dreams.

I urge you to vote "NO" to H.B. 232.

Thank you,
Amy Moore

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

To the Honorable Members of the Texas Higher Education Committee

I am writing to urge your strong opposition to H.B. 232, concerning resident status determination for higher education tuition. This bill harms Texas students, undermines our state's K-12 investment, and weakens our future workforce and economy.

H.B. 232 eliminates Education Code Section 54.052(a)(3). This vital provision allows Texas high school graduates with three years' residency prior to graduation to earn in-state tuition, recognizing their commitment to our state. Removing it closes the door to affordable higher education for many students who grew up and were educated here, regardless of parental domicile or immigration status.

Furthermore, the new Section 54.052(c) explicitly bars federally unauthorized individuals from resident status, affecting students who know no other home but Texas.

Most alarmingly, Section 3 permits the retroactive reclassification of current students who previously qualified under Section 54.052(a)(3) or are federally unauthorized. This is profoundly unfair and disruptive. It pulls the rug out from under students enrolled in good faith, potentially forcing them to drop out due to sudden, massive tuition increases.

Denying these Texas high school graduates access to affordable higher education squanders Texas's K-12 investment and limits their potential to contribute to our economy as skilled professionals and taxpayers. It reverses a sensible, long-standing policy that fostered talent within our state.

H.B. 232 creates needless barriers, punishes students for circumstances beyond their control, and diminishes our pool of educated talent. For its detrimental impact on students – especially via retroactive reclassification – and its negative consequences for Texas's future, please reject H.B. 232. Maintain the existing provisions that support Texas high school graduates pursuing higher education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Adele Nelson, Dr.
self
Austin, TX

Dear members of the Higher Education Committee, I am Adele Nelson, I write representing myself. I am a professor and my zip code is 78703. I write to oppose HB 232 for ethical, pedagogical, and practical reasons.

I oppose this bill for ethical reasons. Why when we should practice compassion, kindness, and humility, do we instead target the most vulnerable population for financial penalties and deny them opportunities for educational attainment? It is not fair for undocumented students who reside in the state to not have access to in-state tuition.

As an educator, I oppose this bill for pedagogical reasons. I want all students – irrespective of their immigration status – who are admitted to my institution to have the opportunity to study at it. My classroom benefits from a diversity of viewpoints and life experiences.

As a taxpayer, I oppose this bill for practical reasons. This bill imposes significant – and as I understand it unfunded – administrative burdens. If this bill is passed, universities and community colleges would have to verify and monitor immigration status for all of their students, past and present, because of the retroactivity and collection requirements – creating significant, new, and expensive administrative overhead. Why would the House want to create yet another costly administrative system? As you may know, the UT system, for example, operates several key functions on ancient, so-called “legacy” computer systems that are incompatible with current technologies. The costs of this bill’s implementation would not be limited to new staff. It would extend to a massive IT overhaul. Why prioritize precious, limited resources to policing students’ immigration status (which is not the function of educational systems) over the actual mission of higher education?

If our elected representatives continue to erode, burden, and distract from the core function of our public higher education system – to educate – the system is going to collapse. The remarkable individual and society-wide achievements fostered for generations by this state’s higher education institutions – of which many of you are alumni – will grind to a halt. Please be more careful.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Adele Nelson

Marisol Sanchez

Self

Austin, TX

In 2001, Texas became the first state in the union to offer in-state tuition to nonresident-Texas youth, becoming a leader in the nation. As a result, numerous young and talented Texans have pursued their academic dreams, became productive members of society, lifted the academic reputation of universities in the state, contributed to the Texas economy and workforce, and served as role models for younger generations. These Texans are the brightest of the brightest. It makes absolutely no sense to repeal a legislation that elevated the state and made other states look up to for implementing responsible and smart legislation in 2001. To undo the original HB 1403 sets Texas back and sends the wrong message that academically talented young Texans are not supported in their academic and career endeavors simply because of their resident status. I recently wrote my dissertation on the experiences of these students at UT Austin between 2001 and 2013. My findings show that, indeed, these students are some of the most talented in the state (and I would argue country). Many have gone to pursue amazing careers in engineering, consulting, public health, nonprofit, teaching, business, and even government. I don't understand measures to repeal HB 1403 and some policymakers' obsession with coming after academically talented youth rather than valuing all they have to offer and recognizing how much they will contribute to the prosperity of the state of Texas upon receiving their college education. Why would the state not support talent? Isn't the state interested in being a leader in the country and in the world in education and the workforce? What Texas accomplished in 2001 (beating California) is something I have been incredibly proud of as a Texan. Both political parties were able to come together and collaborate for a common cause that became the example to follow in the nation. I will be incredibly proud if both parties can once again come together and recognize that implementing HB 232 is not only irresponsible, but it will do Texas a disservice in the long run both in education and in the economy by limiting the talent in the state. We must uphold and protect the original HB 1403. In doing so, we protect the prosperity of the state for generations to come. I am a graduate of UT Austin and studied alongside HB1403 beneficiaries, and I can personally speak to their strong work ethic, determination, academic talent, amazing moral character, and their love for Texas, for their families and communities. They inspired me then and inspire me now. Please continue to support young Texans and do not allow HB 232 to pass, and please do not entertain this bill any longer. Please be better stewards of my taxes. Thank you. Dr. Sanchez.

Juan Flores, Mr.

Latino Texas Policy Center

San Antonio, TX

Please oppose HB 232. This bill harms student education opportunities, family generational economic mobility, and our states' economy. Since the passage of the Dream Act in 2001, its impact has been miraculous - increased access to education, improved graduation success, gainful employment in needed industries, and economic mobility that supports independence and self-reliance. Education is a human capital investment in the future of our state, and the Dream Act is exemplary in an investment that benefits all Texans.

Daniel Selvaggio

Indivisible

Temple, TX

These people are going to school and participating in their communities. They work and have family. Why make it harder for any immigrant to live here? Texans should welcome anyone and everyone who wants to be a part of America. There should be easier paths for people to obtain legal status, not harder, especially when they are productive member of the community, as many immigrants are. If you want to abolish this bill it should come with a bill to allow documentation for all those students who would qualify so they can apply for financial aid. Stop the attack on our immigrant families and start acting like a true Texan, welcoming and friendly.

Oppose this bill

Ana Coca, Mrs.

Self teacher

Grand Prairie, TX

I am an educator. I am an adjunct professor at the University of North Texas in Dallas. I work with the dreamers on documented students they graduate. They are extremely successful and they contribute to the economy of Texas.

Erika Camarillo

Self/tescher

Baytown, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Erika Camarillo, and I am a proud beneficiary of HB 1403, which allowed me to qualify for in-state tuition in Texas under the condition that I sign an affidavit committing to adjust my immigration status as soon as possible.

When I graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in December 2010, I received devastating news: The DREAM Act had not passed. My dreams felt shattered, and looking back, I now recognize that I fell into a deep depression because of it. It wasn't until I was granted DACA that I was finally able to put my degree to use and become a high school teacher.

I've now been teaching for twelve years. Thanks to HB 1403, I've had the chance to share my love for education and community service with my students. I also fulfilled my commitment to fix my immigration status, and I'm proud to say I am now an American citizen.

I wish I didn't have to write this letter today, but since HB 232 is being considered, I respectfully urge you to repeal it and continue HB 1403. There is no doubt that an educated society is a stronger society. House Bill 1403 gave me the opportunity to serve my community and become a contributing member of it.

Though HB 1403 no longer affects me personally, I now think of my own students—students taking dual credit courses and dreaming even bigger dreams than I once did. I see their hard work and the pain in their eyes when they speak about the uncertainty of their futures. I wish I could promise them that they are safe, that their dedication is enough, and that they don't need to prepare backup plans in case they lose their access to in-state tuition.

As you cast your vote, I ask you to consider that you hold the futures of nurses, architects, engineers, and so many more in your hands. While they may not be citizens on paper, they are Americans at heart. These are the kids who stand for the Pledge of Allegiance every morning, who support their school communities, and who step up to help whenever they're needed.

Please continue to invest in their futures, as Texas once invested in mine, and I assure you the return will be great.

Sincerely,

Erika Camarillo

Baytown, Texas 77521

Mary Recio

self retired

Austin, TX

Vote no. Dreamers pay all of the same taxes everyone else does.

Dulce Salazar

Self

Pearland, TX

My name is Dulce Salazar. I am an attorney, a Texas resident, and I was once an undocumented immigrant. I have lived in Texas since I was 8 years old. My parents instilled in me that I could be whatever I wanted if I worked hard. With that in mind I graduated at the top ten percent of my high school class and earned my spot at the University of Texas at Austin. However, I would not have been able to afford that education if I had to pay as an international student. Being granted resident status as a college student was not only just, as my parents and I contributed to the Texas economy, but was also the smart choice for the great State of Texas. This State invested in me. In return, I went on to become a prosecutor in several Texas counties serving the victims of violent crime and defending children who had been sexually or physically abused. I ask that we continue to invest in our youth. I ask that this does not become yet another partisan issue, but instead that we can collectively realize that this is what is economically sound, just, and right.

If a child wants an education and they have earned their right at our universities, then we have the responsibility to let them become contributing members of our society. After all, an educated population should be the goal.

Johnathan Paylor

Self

Humble, TX

This bill arbitrarily punishes young people for circumstances entirely beyond their control, contradicting American values of fairness and opportunity. Our legal system generally recognizes that minors should not bear full responsibility for actions taken on their behalf by adults. HB232 contradicts this principle. These students should be judged on their character, achievements, and potential—not on paperwork they couldn't control as children. These students are seeking education precisely to create better lives and contribute positively to the only home they know—Texas. Our great state of opportunity deserves their talents and contributions.

As a matter of fact, Texas currently faces critical workforce shortages in many areas, and reducing the educated workforce by excluding these students harms our economic competitiveness. It was the Texas Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs after all that reported water and wastewater facilities across Texas will see 30% to 50% of their experienced workforce retire over the next decade, and as the number of qualified replacements shrink, the opportunity exists for these students to fill in those gaps. The same situation applies in our state industries of healthcare and education, where we face significant shortages of nurses and teachers available. Restricting education for these students based on their residency status being changed would be self-inflicting wound to our state, and to our Republican leaders seeking reelection.

Karla Perez

Self - Attorney

Houston, TX

I write to register my opposition to HB 232 and call on the House Higher Education Committee to do the same. I am a U.S. citizen and an immigration lawyer at a local nonprofit organization in Houston, Texas. I specialize in working with gender-based violence survivors and my work with immigrant survivors leads to safer communities and stronger families. My parents and I have called Texas home since 1995. Years ago, I was an undocumented student at the University of Houston. From 2014-2017 when I was an undergraduate student and a law student, I spent many days at the Capitol advocating against this same legislation being proposed now. Many things have changed since then. My fellow undocumented students and I have since graduated from college and graduate school. We've grown up, years into our careers and have started families and businesses in Texas. But what has not changed, is the benefit to the State of Texas in keeping intact decades-old, bi-partisan legislation that allows noncitizen students to pay the in-state tuition rate at Texas colleges and universities. If our state's current tuition equity laws are repealed, Texas stands to lose more than \$461M annually in economic activity, according to recent research by the American Immigration Council. I encourage House Representatives to also look to local research completed by Every Texan, outlining the vast benefits to the state when noncitizen Texans can access higher education. Our current legislation makes good economic sense and does not impact admission decisions in any way for U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents. Singling out noncitizen students (who in 2021 only accounted for 1.5% of all students enrolled in Texas' public universities and colleges) is simply cruel. These students, like myself many years ago, have lived in Texas for at least 3 years leading up to their high school graduation, have lived in Texas for a full year before the Texas college or university enrollment cutoff, and have sworn to apply for lawful permanent resident status as soon as they are able to. Most of us who benefited from being able to pay (key word: PAY) the in-state tuition rate are long-time Texas residents. We are integral members of your communities. Many of us are engaged voters too, who are quite aware of how our state elected officials decide to spend limited state resources to pick on immigrants and marginalized communities, session after session. "Cruelty is the point," seems to be the guiding light in Texas politics these days. We can do better than that. You can do better than that. Please use your time in office wisely and to the benefit of all Texans. I call on you to oppose HB 232.

Russell Moses

Self, College Teacher

Austin, TX

HB 232 argues that fellow graduates of Texas high schools should be treated unequally as soon as they qualify for admission to a Texas college or university. While many students of Texas high school graduating classes will be given the opportunity to pay resident tuition, other students - who have been living alongside them in Texas - will not. Moreover, HB 232 break the promise of existing law that all young residents of Texas have been given for a quarter of a century. What could be the reason for this blatantly cruel and unequal treatment?

Many children come to Texas schools as a result of their parents bringing them here, where they study, play, find friends, and join the vibrant life of the state. When time comes to graduate from high school, they seek higher education in order to fulfill the greater potentials of themselves and their state. This law says that some students should be treated differently because of how - and from which direction - their parents brought them to Texas. In effect, this law punishes some children for choices that were made by their parents. And this is unfair.

The law seek to identify a class of students for no other purpose than to discriminate against them. Justice and decency require that we allow all young residents of Texas to dream at a fair rate, without judging them for being brought to Texas in the first place. Do not let Texas law become a role model for unequal treatment. The law of Texas should welcome all young residents equally into Texas higher education, without applying a divisive and ill-advised tariff.

Perhaps lawmakers are frustrated by an immigration system that lawmakers have failed to fix. Lawmakers should not take out their frustrations on young residents who are not to blame for system failures. Do not subject a class of innocent children to some arbitrary tariff simply to signal misplaced resentment toward the outcomes of a system that you don't approve of.

This bill breaks a promise made by current law to young residents of Texas and instigates a cycle of resentment and moral antagonism that Texas would be unwise to create or feed. In fact, Texas has wisely marked a more friendly trail forward, which can and should be followed by discarding HB 232.

Edilsa Lopez

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as this will hurt our Texas economy. Immigrants pay millions of Taxes every year and their kids deserve to go to college as Texas residents. Many of them came at a very young age and they deserve more. Many of them don't even have a pathway to legalization yet they are professionals who continue to pay millions in federal taxes. Don't take away this opportunity from them.

Autumn Lauener
Self, MSW Student
Houston, TX

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 232.

This bill represents a profound betrayal of the values of fairness, opportunity, and responsibility that Texas claims to uphold. For over twenty years, Texas has promised students brought here as children that if they worked hard, persevered, and met every requirement, they could pursue higher education alongside their peers. HB 232 breaks that promise. It punishes students for circumstances they did not choose and could not control, imposing life-altering barriers on young people who have done everything right.

The students targeted by HB 232 earned their acceptance into Texas universities through merit, determination, and hard work—not through shortcuts or special treatment. They grew up in Texas neighborhoods, studied in Texas classrooms, and contributed to Texas communities. For many, Texas is the only home they have ever known. To suddenly treat them as outsiders and price them out of higher education is both morally indefensible and economically self-destructive.

Our legal system recognizes that minors should not bear full responsibility for decisions made by adults on their behalf. HB 232 disregards this principle entirely. It demands students produce documentation they could not control as children, elevating bureaucracy over merit, and enshrining exclusion over belonging.

Economically, the bill is equally shortsighted. Texas has already invested substantial public resources into these students' K-12 education. Denying them affordable access to college is cruel and wastes taxpayer investment. College graduates contribute more to the workforce, pay more in taxes, and strengthen communities. Driving these students out of higher education shrinks the talent pipeline Texas urgently needs in healthcare, education, and technology. HB 232 trades long-term prosperity for a short-term punitive agenda.

Administratively, HB 232 creates chaos. Institutions would be forced to retroactively review residency determinations, develop complex verification systems, and reclassify students mid-program without sufficient time, guidance, or infrastructure. Financial aid offices would be burdened with tracking thousands of students' immigration statuses and separating every dollar of aid by source. Universities will likely overcomply, harming students who would otherwise qualify as residents even under the bill's narrow standards. These poorly structured mandates also introduce privacy risks, legal liabilities, and tuition debts that many students will never be able to pay, further straining institutions already stretched thin.

Starting implementation by the 2025–2026 academic year is unrealistic. Institutions would be forced into rushed, error-prone processes, resulting in misclassification, disenrollment, and bureaucratic harm at massive scale. Students caught mid-degree could suddenly face unaffordable tuition hikes with little warning and no meaningful recourse.

Say no - Texas is better than HB 232

Kathi Thomas

self- retired

Austin, TX

The reason that in state residents pay a lower tuition has NOTHING to do with our immigration/citizenship status. It's because, over the years, we've paid taxes to the State, taxes that support our public schools and public colleges and universities. People who are undocumented pay the EXACT same taxes as citizens- they pay sales taxes, they pay property taxes- either directly if they own their home (which is harder and harder to do for noncitizens these days), or indirectly if they rent. If they're registered as a "Dreamer", or otherwise have a taxpayer ID # (green card holders, those in line for the LEGAL process of asylum), then they're also paying income taxes, (though they'll never reap the benefits of those income and employee taxes.)

To deny young people who have lived here, paid taxes, and contributed to our state in-state tuition out of meanness is just wrong and it's short-sighted. Higher education, whether that's a 2-year associate's degree at a community college or a 4-year degree helps life people out of poverty by giving them access to better paying jobs. Jobs where they'll be contributing to our tax base with increased purchases, I might add. To deny them this is to deny them higher education, thus creating a permanent underclass, a "servant class" if you will. Surely, in this day and time, that's not what you want, that's immoral!

You want to punish people for being here without documentation, but by and large, college age people didn't come here on their own, they came here with their parents, as babies or young children. They came because their parents were fleeing horrendous violence and/or bone-shattering poverty. Their parents have taken the jobs that no Americans will do. They care for our children and aging parents, they clean our hotel rooms, they do our yard work, they build our roads and homes, and the process our meat and pick our produce. All jobs that are very hard on bodies, and low paying. Are you trying to be sure that their children also have no choice but to take these low-paying servant type jobs? Because that's what removing in state tuition will do for these young people. It is short-sighted and just outright mean. I hope you reconsider and vote this bill down. It should never see the light of day and that it did, just shows how very low some people have gone.

Lisa Brenskelle

self

Houston, TX

It is in the best interest of the state of Texas to have the most highly educated/trained populace, in order to support our economy and Texas businesses. On this basis, any resident of the state should receive in-state tuition at Texas institutions of higher learning. To deny this benefit to DREAMERS/undocumented young people will only hurt the state. DREAMERS have the right to work in the U.S., and therefore having this population be highly educated benefits the state. In addition, other undocumented people, who are not DREAMERS, may obtain right to work in the U.S. in future and therefore their education would also benefit Texas. It makes no sense to limit access to higher education by making it out of reach from a cost perspective. This does not benefit Texas nor Texans.

Irene Heitsch

Self, housewife

Austin, TX

Denying education to community members who have lived here all their lives impairs the ability for the state of Texas to grow and prosper. This is a petty, self defeating bill

Charlotte Haney
Self--Texas Teacher
Houston, TX

My father was the American Dream. His parents had three smart kids and the country they lived in (Canada) at the time did not provide any higher education opportunities for poor kids, so they moved to the United States. My grandfather worked for Chrysler and his children did well in their American schools. My father was valedictorian and got a full ride to Northwestern, became an engineer, worked in oil and gas and at one point in his career led the design team that built the largest structure on earth. I bring this up because I witness this sort of story over and over with my immigrant students. A couple of years ago, I was teaching at a charter school with very limited resources. We could not provide BC Calculus. We had three gifted undocumented students who asked us if they could take BC Calculus as a self-study. We gave them a space to work and a computer and they worked incredibly hard and ended up passing the AP Exam--all on their own. One of these students got a full ride to Northwestern, one to Princeton and another used the TASFA to attend the University of Houston. I am struck by how similar their stories are to my father's and how the only difference is a matter of documents. I am also struck as a social science teacher. Since the pandemic, our fertility rate stands at 1.6, well below replacement level. If we are going to have a productive economy, we will desperately need educated labor. In the 70s and 80s of my childhood, we had so many children and if we didn't maximize the talents of some of them, it might be a loss for that child or family but it was possible to believe that it was not a permanent harm to the economy. It is no longer possible to believe this. Each of these children is of critical importance to our future economic well being. I urge you to reconsider this bill. It not only harms these children, families, and communities but it also harms the future prosperity of this state and our country.

Colleen Schmidt
Self
Houston, TX

Regardless of someone's status in Texas, they pay sales tax, like anyone else and contribute to the funding of the state. It's okay for you to send my money to private and religious schools, but it's not okay to contribute expenses to new talent in our state? Not cool.

Evelyn Ferretiz
Self
Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB 232. It's unfair to the youth who had no say in moving here.

Susan Kelly
Self; Retired Journalist
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 232 because it repeals the 'DREAM' Act, making dreamers who went to HS in Texas NOT eligible for in-state tuition for Texas colleges. Please vote NO on HB 232. Thank you.

Maura Kinney
self
Austin, TX

As an social worker, I've worked with undocumented students who have overcome incredible challenges to graduate and pursue college. HB 232 would pull the rug out from under them. These students deserve the chance to continue their education without being priced out. This bill is unfair and goes against our values as Texans. Vote NO on HB 232.

Chris Huerta

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to firmly oppose Texas HB 232, which seeks to reverse the ability of certain long-term Texas residents to qualify for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities. This bill is cruel, short-sighted, and fundamentally un-Texan.

Many of my friends, family members, and even my wife have been direct beneficiaries of the current in-state tuition policy. Without it, their dreams of obtaining a college degree would have been out of reach. These are hardworking Texans who have lived, learned, and contributed to our communities for most of their lives. They are as much a part of the fabric of this state as anyone else.

Attempting to punish these students — many of whom have grown up in Texas, call it their only home, and aspire to build their futures here — is not just wrong, it is a betrayal of our state's values of opportunity, perseverance, and fairness.

This bill does not strengthen Texas. It weakens it by erecting barriers against some of our most motivated, talented, and dedicated young people, pushing them out of higher education and out of the workforce we need for our future. HB 232 would ultimately harm not only the students it targets, but the economy, culture, and vitality of Texas itself.

I urge you to reject this mean-spirited and regressive legislation. Texas must be a state that invests in all of its residents, not one that turns its back on them.

Susan Hall

self; retired teacher

Austin, TX

This is yet another bill that seems to be intended to create a list to be handed over to ICE or immigration officials. This bill also repeals the Dream Act (a federal law I might add) that would make it prohibitive for any Dreamers (those whose parents brought them here to live a better life) to continue to pursue the American Dream of bettering themselves and continuing their education at a less prohibitive cost. College is expensive even with in state tuition. Why why why would you want to not allow someone to thrive and flourish by continuing their higher education in America where they will continue to learn about American culture, history, etc.,. This just seems mean and should be opposed. Let's continue to let our students, ALL STUDENTS, thrive and prosper in Texas. Oppose this bill. At its root, it is bad for our state and our nation.

Ana Luisa Salas-Porras

SELF

Austin, TX

I strongly urge the committee to vote NO. This bill will affect the many Dreamers who have been receiving in-state tuition for years. As a result, countless Dreamers have graduated from college as nurses, teachers, doctors, accountants---In short, they are leading productive lives in Texas because of being afforded access to higher education. To cut this access off, at this time, is cruel and short sighted. Let these Dreamers continue to be responsible members of society paying taxes and living productive lives. Continue to allow Dreamers to have access to in-state tuition. Please VOTE NO.

Rebekah Warwick, State Director
Heritage Action for America
Mansfield, TX

Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebekah Warwick and I represent Heritage Action for America, a national grassroots organization with two million conservative activists nationwide, including thousands of Texans.

Heritage Action supports House Bill 232, authored by Rep. Cody Vasut, to prohibit in-state tuition for illegal aliens at our state colleges and universities.

Illegal immigration costs taxpayers billions of dollars a year. Passing a law preventing colleges and universities from offering in-state tuition to illegal aliens upholds and reinforces existing federal immigration law. HB 232 will aid in Texas' efforts to deter and disincentive illegal immigration and protect Texas citizens and their tax dollars.

Heritage Action urges you to support House Bill 232 and favorably pass the bill.

Rebekah Warwick
Texas State Director
Heritage Action for America

BILL KING

self - retired judge
Austin, TX

This bill does the opposite of what Texas needs. I read articles every month about businesses - local, statewide, national, international - worried about finding enough educated, qualified workers to hire. Why would you want to hamstring businesses by excluding a entire class of potential employees? If a Dreamer is smart enough to get into a public college and studies hard enough to complete college, we should welcome them.

Chelsie Kramer

Texans for Economic Growth (TEG)

Seabrook, TX

Dear Members of the Committee – As representatives of Texas’s business community and members of Texans for Economic Growth, we write to express our continued opposition to HB 232, as it poses serious risks to the long-standing economic benefits of the Texas Dream Act. For more than two decades, this policy has served as a workforce development tool—helping thousands of Texas high school graduates pursue higher education, fill critical labor gaps, and contribute meaningfully to our state economy. We appreciate the committee substitute for HB 232 and acknowledge the improvements made. However, we remain concerned that the current proposal still contains provisions that could unintentionally undermine the intent and functionality of the Texas Dream Act. In particular, we urge the committee to consider the following revisions:

Affidavit Language: We recommend adopting the language from Utah’s statute for Section 54.052(a)(3):

“...file an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize their immigration status, or will file an application as soon as they are eligible to do so.”

This strikes an appropriate balance—preserving the law’s intent while avoiding additional burdens on students and institutions.

Age Limit Provision: The proposed age cap of 17 would place unrealistic expectations on school counselors and admissions staff, effectively requiring them to interpret complex immigration law. Mistimed applications—often outside a student’s control—should not disqualify a student from educational opportunity.

Oversight Mechanism: We support stronger accountability and recommend adding a reporting requirement to ensure proper compliance. Institutions of higher education could submit annual reports to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Legislature outlining:

The number of students classified under Subsection (a)(3);

Verification methods used to confirm eligibility;

Compliance with affidavit requirements.

Denial Penalty Clause: We strongly oppose the provision disqualifying students based on a future denial of permanent residency. Immigration processes are complex and prone to bureaucratic error. Punishing students for outcomes beyond their control would create unnecessary fear and discourage talented individuals from continuing their education.

We urge lawmakers to view this through an economic lens. Just over 20,000 students benefit from the current policy—a small number with a large return. Studies show repealing the Dream Act could cost Texas over \$460 million annually in lost wages and economic output. Business leaders across the state—from chambers of commerce to industry coalitions—continue to support this policy as vital to maintaining our talent pipeline and long-term competitiveness.

Texas can continue to lead by upholding this smart, pro-growth policy.

Respectfully, Texans for Economic Growth, a coalition of over 160 business leaders

www.txcompact.org

Hannah Jala

self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO HB 232! Every Texan deserves access to affordable higher education, regardless of immigration status.

HB 232 is bad for Texas. In-state tuition helps keep our workforce strong by allowing more students to access higher education and develop the skills our economy needs. Removing this access for undocumented students would reduce college enrollment and hurt long-term economic growth. I urge the committee to vote NO on this bill.

Abraham Diaz Alonso

Self

Edcouch, TX

My name is Abraham Diaz Alonso, a United States Citizen living in Edcouch, Texas - where the closest university to me is The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Today I want to make it known that I fully support ALL students, regardless of their immigration status. As a former undocumented student attending The University of Texas Pan American, being considered a resident of Texas, because I've lived here since 2002, allowed me to pursue my dream of graduating high school and graduating college. Our state wants and needs folks to have access to an education to be able to making support to our state - and this does exactly that. Passing House Bill 232, will harm and limit the enrollment at colleges and universities across the state. I encourage all the committee to VOTE NO on HB 232 and allow every person residing in Texas who meet the requirements to continue with their higher education freely.

Erika DeLaRosa

Self

Houston, TX

Good morning House Higher Education Committee offices,

As I am unable to attend today's hearing to testify in person, I appreciate your consideration of the attached written testimony opposing HB 232 on behalf of myself and the students I taught for ten years. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Blanca Leyva

Fiel

Houston, TX

As a first-generation college graduate and a DACA recipient, I urge you to oppose HB 232. This bill threatens to undo the life-changing impact that Texas House Bill 1403, passed in 2001, has had on students like me. HB 1403 allowed certain undocumented students, including DACA recipients, to qualify for in-state tuition if they met specific residency and graduation criteria. Without that opportunity, my path to higher education—and everything it has led to—would have been nearly impossible.

I graduated as valedictorian from a Texas public high school, yet without in-state tuition, the cost of attending college would have been a barrier I couldn't overcome. My family is low-income, and I had no access to federal financial aid. HB 1403 helped level the playing field and gave me a fair shot at pursuing a degree. Because of that opportunity, I was able to earn a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and I now serve as a Finance Director. My education did not just transform my life—it transformed my family's future. I was the first to graduate from college, and since then, more of my family members have followed in my footsteps.

Access to affordable higher education shouldn't be determined by immigration status—especially when students have lived in Texas for years, attended and excelled in Texas schools, and call this state home. Students like me have grown up here, studied hard, and contributed to our communities. To suddenly strip away this pathway to success is both shortsighted and deeply harmful.

HB 232 would effectively make higher education out of reach for thousands of students who are Texans in every meaningful way. These are students who want to become engineers, teachers, nurses, business leaders, and public servants. They have the talent, the ambition, and the drive—but without access to affordable tuition, many will be forced to abandon their dreams. And as a result, Texas risks losing a generation of innovators, workers, and community leaders.

The economic and social benefits of allowing these students to attend college at in-state rates are well-documented. They go on to become tax-paying professionals, start businesses, give back to their communities, and raise educated families. Removing this opportunity does not serve the state's interests—it undermines them.

Please protect the future of Texas by preserving the progress we've made through HB 1403. I am living proof of what's possible when we invest in all our students. Let's not close the door for those who come next.

I strongly oppose HB 232.

Julieta Garibay

Austin, TX

Austin, TX

My name is Julieta Garibay; I am the daughter of Cecilia - a divorced mother who chose love and courage as we migrated to the US 33 years ago. I am the mother of Soila Emilia, for whom I would cross a thousand borders. I am a proud product of Texas public education and proud to be in the first graduating class of undocumented UT longhorns back in 2005. I am here in strong opposition to HB 232. The bill would be detrimental to our beloved state and the lives of many who consider Texas their home. Before instate tuition for undocumented youth was passed, undocumented students had no real path to higher education. I remember graduating high school in 1998 feeling hopeless — unsure whether all my hard work and honors meant anything. When the Noriega Bill became law, I cried in my mother's arms. I could finally go to college.

Thanks to that policy, I earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in nursing with honors from UT. I co-founded the University Leadership Initiative and United We Dream, the largest national network led by undocumented youth. I've worked in nonprofit and philanthropic spaces advocating for immigrant, social, and reproductive justice. In 2018, I became a U.S. citizen. I bought a home. I became a mother. Throughout the years, I helped others navigate the same systems — from applying for college to applying for citizenship.

This bill changed my life. But it did more than that — it strengthened our state.

Over the last two decades, I've seen firsthand how access to in-state tuition and state aid has empowered entire communities. Former undocumented students are now nurses, teachers, counselors, engineers, and entrepreneurs. They're parents, first-time homebuyers, and leaders in every corner of our economy and civil society.

For 24 years, this law has prevented high school dropouts, expanded our workforce, ensured undocumented graduates pay more in taxes and are generating more economic activity and most importantly ensured that Texas benefits from the talents of people who already call this state home. Texas led the effort of becoming the first state to pass instate tuition, more than 20 other states have followed suit. Undoing it would be short-sighted and deeply damaging.

I strongly urge you to vote no — and instead focus on real issues like teacher pay, access to quality education, and integrating critical race theory in our classrooms.

To be clear, immigrants are here to stay. Texas is our home. And it's time our policies reflect that truth.

Daniela Silva, Rev.

Self, Policy Coordinator

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 232.

Teri Albrecht, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to support undocumented students throughout the State of Texas.

HB232 will cause irrevocable harm to students that have graduated from Texas high schools with the hopes of attending a post-secondary education.

Texas' DREAM Act of 2001 currently allows undocumented students to claim Texas resident status, if they satisfy specific criteria, for the purposes of paying in-state tuition.

Many undocumented students have lived in Texas for most of their lives, attending Texas elementary, junior high and high schools. The Supreme Court's decision in Plyer vs. Doe (1982) guaranteed children the right to a K-12 education. For many of these students, continuing their education into college is the next step to realizing their educational goals. These students' families live in Texas and contribute to the Texas economy by pay taxes and purchasing goods and services.

The students are Texans, often having no recollection of the countries from which they came. These students are active in high school extra-curricular activities, sports, organizations and have big dreams. They are honor roll students, valedictorians and salutatorians. Many dream to go into areas of public service - teachers, health professions, and social workers. All professional areas that our state and nation needs greatly! I know this because I have known many undocumented students since 2001, when HB1403 was passed. I have seen students work hard to be engineers, lawyers, and doctors. These students have a passion for education and want to contribute back to Texas and the United States. Providing an educational trajectory that places these students in sustainable careers only makes our economy stronger.

Denying these students access to in-state tuition will make higher education inaccessible for these goal-oriented students that have the ability, the ambition and the desire to help Texans. Denying these students a higher education will ultimately hurt the Texas economy.

Please vote "no" on HB232.

Shalom Hernandez

Self/Social Worker

Houston, TX

I am writing in strong opposition of this bill. Higher education cost is expensive, and unaffordable to many resident status students as is. This bill will only heightened educational disparities and decrease economic mobility from an already marginalized group. Students who have been residents of the state of Texas deserve to continue to be eligible for in-state tuition regardless of their immigration status.

Faye Kolly

Faye M. Kolly, McChesney Kolly PLLC

Austin, TX

I am writing to oppose HB 232 and urge you to leave the Texas Dream Act 2001 as it is. I am an attorney practicing exclusively in the area of immigration law, a member of the executive committee for the Texas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association and co-chair for the Legal Pathways that Work Committee that is an initiative of the President's Alliance, an organization made up of Universities across the nation.

1. The Texas Dream Act 2001 Supports Texas's Workforce and Economy

Undocumented students educated in Texas are overwhelmingly part of the local economy. According to a 2023 report from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, most Dream Act beneficiaries remain in Texas post-graduation, contributing to industries that face labor shortages, such as healthcare, education, and technology.

2. Promotes Higher Education Access for All

Education is a public good. The 2001 law ensures access for students who have grown up in Texas, been educated in Texas schools, and view Texas as home. Making higher education more accessible leads to higher incomes, increased tax revenues, and reduced dependence on public assistance.

3. Avoids Disrupting Student Lives and Institutional Burdens

The proposed bill introduces new bureaucratic and punitive mechanisms. Retroactive billing, diploma withholding, and legal uncertainty create stress for students and administrative burden for colleges. These policies may deter promising students from enrolling or completing their education.

4. Upholds Texas Values of Opportunity and Responsibility

The Texas Dream Act encourages students to work hard, stay in school, and seek legal status. It recognizes that children should not be punished for their immigration status, especially when they are already contributing to their communities.

5. Cost-effective Compared to the Proposed Changes

Studies have found that undocumented students paying in-state tuition still pay their fair share and are not a drain on state resources. The proposed changes may decrease enrollment, leading to lost tuition revenue and undermining the state's "60x30TX" higher education plan aimed at increasing postsecondary attainment.

The Act Complies with the Executive order issued on April 28, 2025. 2. No Favoring of Non-Citizens Over Citizens:

The law does not favor undocumented students because they are undocumented. A U.S. citizen who meets the same residency and graduation requirements is also eligible for in-state tuition under the same rules. In fact, many U.S. citizens who grew up in Texas qualify under this path. Thus, the benefit is neutral and equally available to citizens and non-citizens based on residency.

No Violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1623:

Federal law (8 U.S.C. § 1623) prohibits states from offering a "postsecondary education benefit" to undocumented immigrants "on the basis of residence within a State" unless the same benefit is offered to all U.S. citizens, regardless of state of residence.

Quynh-Huong Nguyen

Woori Juntos

Houston, TX

Testimony in Support of HB 4232

Higher Education

Submitted by Quynh-Huong Nguyen, M.Ed.

I write to express my firm opposition to the Committee Substitute of H.B. 232. This bill proposes changes to the Texas Education Code that will disproportionately harm immigrant students, particularly those from communities of color, including the Asian communities. It is a policy that not only increases financial burdens but also deepens the racial profiling and exclusion that already permeate our systems.

By reclassifying noncitizen students as nonresidents unless they meet certain strict criteria—such as having a pending application for lawful permanent resident status or being under 18 and signing an affidavit—the bill creates a system that treats immigrant students as “other” based on their citizenship status. The reality is that this bill encourages racial profiling by making assumptions about who belongs and who does not based on immigration status, which is often closely tied to race and ethnicity. This bill targets communities already marginalized—people of color who are more likely to be immigrants and more likely to be treated as outsiders, even when they’ve lived in Texas for years.

Many students in the Asian community, for example, face language barriers, financial struggles, and the complex immigration processes that come with seeking lawful permanent resident status. By denying these students access to in-state tuition and financial aid, this bill effectively punishes them for their immigrant status, regardless of how long they have been part of Texas' communities. This creates an unnecessary and harmful divide, especially for non-English preferred students who may already face challenges in navigating complex bureaucratic systems and who rely on in-state tuition rates to make higher education accessible.

Furthermore, the retroactive tuition provision—requiring students with pending applications for lawful permanent resident status to repay out-of-state tuition if their application is denied—represents a clear economic injustice. Many of these students, who are already vulnerable, would find themselves saddled with large debts for simply trying to follow the law and improve their circumstances. This provision isn’t just a financial burden; it adds a layer of fear and uncertainty, discouraging students from even pursuing higher education in the first place, out of fear of an unpredictable financial future.

At its core, H.B. 232 fosters an environment of racial and immigration-based exclusion, further entrenching a system that discriminates based on who you are, where you come from, and the color of your skin. It perpetuates harmful stereotypes and increases the likelihood of racial profiling, especially against students who are already seen as “outsiders” by the dominant culture. We cannot allow such discriminatory practices to continue, especially in our educational institutions, which should be spaces of opportunity, learning, and growth for

Maria Valenzuela

UT Austin

Midland, TX

There is no reason why these students, who are already accomplished enough to acquire higher education, should have no access to the resources necessary to succeed. I personally had the encounter of meeting an undocumented student who was salutatorian of her class. These are students, with talents and aptitudes we’re talking about folks. Let’s make America a place of opportunities

Kevin Chen

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill, as it would force dreamers to pay out-of-state tuition even though they are residents of Texas.

MARIA GARCIA

Self

Mesquite, TX

AGAINST HB 232- Since the inception of HB1403, which was signed by then governor Rick Perry, this bill clearly outlined that students who wanted to obtain in-state tuition had to meet strict requirements regarding residency pertaining to living and receiving education in the state of Texas. This bill defies the vision of granting a fair education to students whose families work and pay taxes in this state. This bill is a poor stab at trying to appease a xenophobic voter base. Instead of investing in the contributions students can make for the state and the nation. Re-evaluate the purpose of this bill and what it stands for. Educating everyone of what this bill (HB1403) does vanishes the fear that many have, immigrants are not taking opportunities they are simply creating more. Thank you. - A beneficiary of the Texas bill HB1403.

Christopher Cain

Self

San Antonio, TX

TAFSA is needed for so many students.

Marlen Rodriguez

self

Del Valle, TX

We are the United States we should be united and help out everyone who helps our country. We should not get rid of TAFSA.