

Act on a Dream

at Harvard College

www.actonadream.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESIDENTS OF HARVARD, TUFTS, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, NORTHEASTERN, MIT,
UMASS, UMASS BOSTON, AND BOSTON COLLEGE WRITE TO SENATORS KERRY
AND BROWN IN SUPPORT OF DREAM ACT

Boston, MA--

Yesterday the Presidents of several Boston area Universities submitted a joint letter to Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown of Massachusetts in support of the DREAM Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation up for a vote in the US Senate this week. The DREAM Act offers a pathway to citizenship to a narrow category of undocumented students who were forced to enter this country as minors and through no fault of their own. The bill requires that these students pursue higher education or enroll in the military to qualify for temporary permanent resident status.

Despite the fervent support of these prestigious academic communities and their respective leaders, Senator Scott Brown has shown ambivalence in voting in support of the measure. As some of the world's leading institutions of higher learning, we hope that these Universities' support of the bill will encourage all Senators to prioritize the needs of students.

Act on a DREAM at Harvard College, a student organization dedicated to the engagement of young individuals in ensuring equality for all immigrants, applauds the efforts of these University presidents, and particularly of Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust. President Faust recently met with Senator Durbin to thank him for his support of the DREAM Act and of Eric Balderas, a Harvard sophomore who faced the risk of deportation this summer. She has played a leading role in defending the DREAM Act, and encouraging her fellow Presidents to do the same.

Today, Act on a Dream will be releasing to the press the stories of Harvard undergraduates affected by this issue.

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For media requests, please contact Cecilia Venegas at cvenegas@fas.harvard.edu.



Tufts
UNIVERSITY



Northeastern University



September 20, 2010

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Scott Brown
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry and Senator Brown:

We understand that the Senate may soon consider the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors or DREAM Act and we write to urge your support for this critical measure that will assist thousands of students in Massachusetts and across the country to reach their full potential and contribute to their home communities.

Each of us is deeply committed to access and believes that education and service are the pathways to better neighbors, stronger communities, and economic growth, as well as personal satisfaction and happiness. The DREAM Act would provide an opportunity for promising students, who through no fault of their own arrived in the United States without legal status as minors and yet are working hard and achieving in our schools and communities, and grant them the temporary legal status that would allow them to pursue a post-secondary education or serve in the military.

There is no doubt that with or without the DREAM Act, these young people will be living, studying, and working to get by in our communities. The DREAM Act will offer them and us the potential of harnessing their full talents on behalf of all of us.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Drew Gilpin Faust
President
Harvard University

Lawrence S. Bacow
President
Tufts University

Robert A. Brown
President
Boston University

Joseph E. Aoun
President
Northeastern University

Susan Hockfield
President
MIT

Jack M. Wilson
President
UMass

Keith Motley
Chancellor
UMass Boston

Fr. William Leahy
President
Boston College