

December 15, 2010



*Saint Meinrad*  
School of Theology

The Honorable Richard Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1401

Faculty Offices

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Director of Hispanic Ministry at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Saint Meinrad, Indiana I am writing to give our full support to the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. At the same time, I would like to express my profound gratitude to you for tirelessly leading this vital immigration reform issue for our country.

It has become clear to many of us who work closely with Hispanics in this country that undocumented students face a close to impossible situation which places them, their communities and the future of this country in jeopardy. To mention only the most obvious problems associated with immigration: the inability of undocumented students to pay for college makes them prey to unemployment and its consequences, the result of which will certainly compromise the moral and economic growth of the United States. The DREAM Act promises to guarantee a much needed hope to thousands and thousands of students who came here looking for a better future.

I understand the immigration debate from the other side as well, but a broader vision is needed for fair and imaginative legislative reform. I believe that the Senate must face the reality of Mexican immigration as a genuine political crisis: we are dealing not only with economic refugees but political exiles as well. Many families have been forced out of their country because of the murderous drug wars and this flight puts this population in a different category than some might think. The US has traditionally absorbed political refugees and guaranteed them safe harbor. Surely, every citizen (no matter what his or her political affiliation) must sense this ethical responsibility at some level. Furthermore, if we don't find a safety net in education for young people who have come to our country for the sake of their own lives, this nation will find itself in a very problematic situation in the future, with an uneducated Hispanic population who will not be functioning at full capacity. In the end, can the United States continue to do nothing about this immigration issue when lives and a country's future is at stake? Can we afford to wait any longer to pass the DREAM Act?

Please know of the prayers for your good work from Fr. Denis Robinson, the President-Rector of St. Meinrad and myself, together with the monks and students here.

Yours sincerely,

(Rev.) Guerric DeBona, OSB

Director of Hispanic Ministry

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology