

VALPARAISO[®]
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

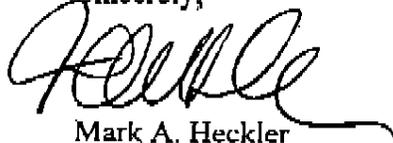
Dear Senator Lugar:

As president of Valparaiso University, it is my privilege to offer my support for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act which you have cosponsored. This groundbreaking legislation would provide immigrant students an opportunity to work toward permanent residency and citizenship through two years of military service or college attendance. Millions of young people would be positively affected by this legislation. These hardworking and accomplished individuals seek a fair opportunity to become productive citizens of the country they consider home, and the DREAM Act would make that possible.

Each year, almost 70,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools in the United States and experience great difficulty in pursuing employment or higher education opportunities. The inclusive eligibility requirements of the DREAM Act would alleviate these issues by setting clear guidelines for those seeking to become permanent residents and citizens. The realities of the 21st Century global environment compel us to respond to this critical immigration issue in a fair and humanitarian way. Through education and service, these young people will significantly contribute to our society as future leaders in business, government, and the nonprofit sector.

Our country faces many challenges that will ultimately shape America's status as a global economic force. With the enactment of this legislation, we will open the door for a generation of young people to fulfill their dreams of becoming Americans in every sense of the word. The potential impact on Indiana's economy and that of the United States is significant. Our country was founded as a welcoming haven for individuals who want nothing more than to work hard and achieve the American dream for themselves and their families. This legislation will make that dream a reality.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Heckler
President

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