



IMMIGRATION

SB 68 (Lara, D-Bell Gardens) Public postsecondary education: exemption from nonresident tuition. This bill would enable years at a California Community College to count towards AB 540 (Dream Act) eligibility. Additionally, the bill will allow the completion of an Associate's degree or satisfaction of the minimum requirements to transfer to the University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU), in lieu of a high school diploma to allow a student to qualify for in-state tuition and financial aid. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 257 (Lara, D-Bell Gardens) School admissions: pupil residency: pupils of deported parents. This bill would require K-12 public schools to continue to allow the children of deported individuals to be admitted and/or be continuously enrolled even though they may no longer meet residency requirements. **(SUPPORT)**

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

SB 68 and **SB 257** both support the inherent dignity of the individual and fundamental rights of California residents to receive a quality education in our state.

“All persons of whatever race, sex, condition, or age, by virtue of their dignity as human beings, have an inalienable right to a quality education.”

- U.S. Bishops, Political Responsibility: Proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Protecting the Least Among Us, and Pursuing the Common Good.

Since its original passage, AB 540, also known as the California Dream Act of 2012, has enabled undocumented students who graduated from high schools to qualify for in-state tuition. Unfortunately, many undocumented students remain left out and cannot access the benefits of AB 540 if they do not take the traditional path straight from high school to college. SB 68 would ease the financial burden for these students, commonly known as DREAMers.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provides temporary relief from deportation and employment eligibility offered to youth through the federal Department of Homeland Security even though parents may have been deported. Current state law also establishes K-12 public school residency requirements for school attendance in a school district. With the passage of SB 257, DACA students would be allowed to stay in their schools despite the deportation of their parents.

CHURCH TEACHING

We advocate –as a matter of justice– for the high quality education of all California students attending our public and private schools from early childhood through college, especially for those most in need.

“Catholic lay people, diocesan officials, and bishops should continue to work together with community organizations, labor unions, and other religious bodies on behalf of the rights of immigrants in the workplace, schools, public services, our legal system, and all levels of government.”

— U. S. Bishops, Welcoming the Stranger Among Us (2001)

TALKING POINTS

- ▶ We support **SB 68** because all residents in our state who seek to better themselves and their families' lives by seeking higher education, should be able to access the same support as their peers by allowing them to qualify for in-state tuition rates.
- ▶ **SB 68** will remove challenges and barriers to postsecondary learning at a UC or CSU for thousands of older, undocumented youth that arrive in our state during their high school years and are frequently unable to catch up on their studies in time to graduate from high school.
- ▶ **SB 257** will allow children of deported parents to remain in school, thereby preventing the need to break up families and break down our communities.
- ▶ We support **SB 257** because California, and the rest of the nation, will stand to benefit greatly by allowing these students to continue their education.