

DREAM ACT

- WHEREAS: each year, approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from American high schools and many hope to pursue higher education, join the military, or enter the workforce; their lack of legal status places those dreams in jeopardy and exposes them to deportation. Over the last decade, there has been growing bipartisan consensus that Congress should provide legal immigration status for young adults who came to the country as children and graduated from American high schools; and
- WHEREAS: the DREAM Act is the oldest and best known legislative solution to this problem and has been introduced in both the House and the Senate during the 112th Congress and has had bipartisan support for it in Congress has waned, leaving undocumented youth in limbo; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) continues to promote an alternative to the DREAM Act which, according to his public statements, would offer temporary legal status, but not provide a dedicated path to permanent residency. Although Senator Rubio has yet to introduce a bill, continued speculation over its contents has further heightened the sense that a solution for undocumented youth is necessary; and
- WHEREAS: Representative David Rivera (R-FL) introduced part two of his own solution, the Studying Towards Adjusted Residency Status (STARS) Act, which would provide a path to permanent residency to graduates of a four-year college or university. In January 2012, Rivera introduced the Adjusted Residency Status (ARMS) Act, which would provide a path to permanent residency to undocumented youth who serve in the military; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED: that the ILWU do all in its power to lobby Congress in passing whichever legislation has the best possibility of passage during the 2nd session of the 112th Congress.