



## **TALKING POINTS – CIR and DREAM**

### **The DREAM Act is viewed by many immigrant youth, journalists, politicians and educators as a building block to immigration reform.**

A building block is something that may have value in itself that at the same time provides a foundation on which to make something bigger—just and humane immigration reform.

### **The DREAM Act is a litmus test.**

Many lawmakers agree that the DREAM Act is a litmus test for the immigration issue because it is the most politically palatable piece of comprehensive immigration reform. If we cannot pass the DREAM Act, we know that we do not have the necessary support for comprehensive reforms.

### **A lot of undocumented workers who have children here and our mixed immigration families want their children out of this immigration ordeal**

Close to 50% of undocumented families today arrived legally on tourist visas. They exist as mixed immigration families with some children who are undocumented and others that are citizens. They are strong advocates for the DREAM Act and want their children to have access to higher education and opportunities that have been historically denied to them.

**With this comes a realization that a lot of undocumented workers do not have children here that would benefit for the DREAM Act. Nonetheless, the benefits to immigrant communities by supporting the DREAM Act are undeniable.** Since 1.6-2.8 million immigrant youth will benefit from the DREAM Act:

- It will bring money into the communities because the youth will be able to earn more
- The beneficiaries of the DREAM Act would become unique and powerful assets to the comprehensive immigration reform movement since they (1) would no longer advocate with fear of persecution, (2) are aware of the hardships, and (3) are passionate about real change on U.S. immigration laws.
- Once the beneficiaries are able practice their professions, they will become role models to the rest of immigrant and/or minority youth who currently lack such role models and have high dropout rates.
- It will open political space and expectations for a broader legalization

### **The DREAM Act is a stimulus policy**



The DREAM Act is a stimulus policy. As President Obama said in his address to congress, creating an educated workforce will stimulate our economy, increase productivity and help the U.S compete in the global company. Students who would benefit from the DREAM Act are our future teaches, doctors, nurses, and lawyers. The DREAM Act will allow thousands of immigrant students to access higher education and maximize their contributions to our economy and communities.

**Talking about the DREAM Act casts our undocumented families and communities in a positive light.**

It's tough to demonize undocumented migrants when we talk about the talented, hard-working youth raised in undocumented families. American citizens can better relate to and support immigration reform when they see the human face of these students who were too young to play by the rules.

**DREAM Act mobilizing fills a vacuum in the movement for immigration reform**

Immigrant youth--who are passionate about the DREAM Act more so than other reforms—are critically needed in the larger movement for immigration reform. The DREAM Act serves as a bridge to this. We know where the energy and enthusiasm is and must work together to capture that for immigration reform in general.

**The DREAM Act does not take away from CIR but adds to it.** The DREAM Act can pave the pathway towards comprehensive immigration reform. Unlike other immigration reform policies, the DREAM Act has garnered strong bipartisan support since its first introduction in 2001. In past years, the bill has brought together 48 Senate cosponsors and more than 152 Republican and Democratic House cosponsors, more than one-third of the House. In 2007, 52 Senators voted in favor of the bill, falling only 8 votes short of the 60 votes needed to proceed.