

Label: SGAR50004

Date Introduced: 11/20/2013

Author(s): Sen. Guillermo Lopez, Karla Quetzalli Perez

Sponsor(s): Sen. Nicholas Stallman, Sen. Gregorio Ayala Guerra, Sen. James Lee, Sen. Shaun Smith

Committee: N/A

Draft: Final Draft

Student Government Association (SGA) Resolution Reaffirming Support of In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students

Whereas, The University of Houston is the second most ethnically diverse research University in the United States¹; and

Whereas, Texas Senate Bill 1528, passed by the 79th Texas legislature and signed by Governor Perry in 2005 has been the subject of debate in the latest Gubernatorial race, and

Whereas, under TX SB1528, students who lived in Texas during the 3 years preceding high school graduation or receipt of a GED and resided in Texas one year prior to enrollment in an institution of higher education, are classified as Texas Residents for tuition purposes regardless of citizenship status²; and

Whereas, SB1528 allows undocumented students who meet the above criteria to be eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid allowing them to apply for State Grants such as the Texas Public Education Grants and Texas Grants³; and

Whereas, On June 15th, 2012 the Secretary of Homeland Security announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which would allow certain undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children to request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and would be eligible for work authorization; and⁴

Whereas, the DACA program has been substantially helpful to beneficiaries but falls short by restricting International Travel, leaving out thousands of otherwise potentially young undocumented immigrants under the age of 15 and undocumented immigrants who arrived after June 15, 2007. Moreover, it limits opportunities for certain jobs that require Legal Permanent Residence (green card) leaving millions in limbo; and

Whereas, there are approximately 1000 undocumented students at the University of Houston who are eligible for DACA; and

¹ <http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/profile/index.php>

² <http://www.theeb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1528.PDF>

³ [https://uhhelpdesk.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/574/~/-/sb-1528-students-\(previously-called-hb-1403\)](https://uhhelpdesk.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/574/~/-/sb-1528-students-(previously-called-hb-1403))
<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/index.cfm?objectid=D465D848-EA0F-C0EA-5209BC8C89262877>

⁴ <http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/press/releases/pressrelease.cfm?id=2354&tid=1&cid=1>

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Whereas, as long as the immigration system remains broken, DACA beneficiaries and their family members will remain without legal recourse pending congressional action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the 50th Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

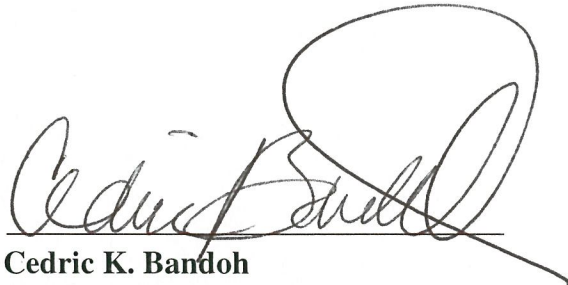
That the University of Houston SGA reaffirms its support of SB1528 and opposes any attempts by the Texas Legislature to remove or dilute its benefits to thousands of students; and

Be it Further Resolved that the University of Houston SGA opposes any attempts by the Texas Legislature to deny State benefits including Drivers Licenses and ID cards to DACA beneficiaries; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the University of Houston SGA calls on the Texas Congressional delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives to urge House Speaker John Boehner to bring a comprehensive immigration bill forth that provides better opportunities for students and their families.



Sebastian Agudelo
Speaker of the Senate
University of Houston



Cedric K. Bandoh
Student Body President
University of Houston

APPROVED

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