

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2019-108

TITLE: Resolution Respectfully Urging the University of Florida to Support Legislation Providing State Financial Aid to DACA/TPS Recipients

AUTHOR(S): Allocations Chairwoman Katie Hernandez, Chomp the Vote Chairman Dylan Santalo, Chispas President Giancarlos Tejeda, External Affairs Chairwoman Emily Dempsey, Senate President Pro-Tempore Libby Shaw

SPONSOR(S): Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, HSA President Brenda Villanueva, Senator Mateo Haydar, Senator Derlis Leyva, Senator Melissa Andrade, Senator Stephanie Beltran

WHEREAS, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) is a policy that was implemented in 2012 that permits individuals, who came to the United States as children, to request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years and allows eligibility for work authorization (subject to renewal)¹; and,

WHEREAS, there are over 800,000 DACA recipients nationwide and approximately 50,000 DACA recipients in the State of Florida²; and,

WHEREAS, the Minority Policy Institute estimates that there are over 1.2 million DREAMers to whom this program applies to³; and,

WHEREAS, currently, DACA recipients are not eligible to obtain financial aid at the federal or state level, which makes the cost of education a significant financial strain on undocumented students who attend the University of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, tuition equity was passed in 2014, enabling qualifying undocumented students to be granted in-state college tuition rates; and,

WHEREAS, President Fuchs reaffirmed that “the University of Florida’s commitment to our students of undocumented parents and our support for this program” and “the DACA program and our ‘Dreamers’ add significantly to our university’s excellence in education, research and the economic impact the university has on our state”⁴; and,

WHEREAS, House Bill 457 was filed by Representative Guillermo Smith, which details that DACA/TPS Recipients may receive state financial aid including the merit-based Florida Bright Futures Program⁵; and,

WHEREAS, House Bill 457 has the potential to affect 50,000 DACA/TPS recipients to pursue higher education; and,

WHEREAS, currently nine states and three top 5 public institutions provide undocumented students in-state financial aid; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of embracing all members of our community by maintaining a welcoming environment.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports efforts to increase college accessibility and affordability to all students.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate respectfully urges the University of Florida to support legislation, such as House Bill 457, that provides state issued financial support to undocumented students⁷.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President W. Kent Fuchs, Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith, Representative Fentrice Driskell, the Florida House of Representatives, Dean of Students Heather White, Associate Dean of Students Will Atkins, Assistant Director of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Diana Moreno, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David W. Parrott, Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement Nancy Chrystal-Green.

[1] <https://undocu.berkeley.edu/legal-support-overview/what-is-daca/>

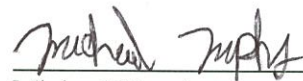
[2] <https://floridaimmigrant.org/tag/daca/>

[3] https://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/publications/file/2014-05_Immigration-State-by-state-2.pdf

[4] <http://statements.ufl.edu/statements/2017/09/daca-letter-of-support.html>

[5] <https://floridapolitics.com/archives/286353-carlos-smith-bill-to-make-daca-refugee-students-eligible-for-college-financial-aid>

[6] <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/29/the-best-schools-for-financial-aid.html>


Michael Murphy
Senate President

2/18/19
Date