

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 09-134

Resolution Urging the United States Congress and the President to Support the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minor (DREAM) Act

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Currently, children who immigrate to the US from another country can only obtain permanent status through their parents and may not independently apply for residency. These children are allowed to attend and complete public education, but are not allowed to attend college in many states. Without proof of legal immigration status, such children are generally not issued driver's licenses, social security cards and cannot legally work.
- b. The lack of legal immigration status condemns these children to a life of unemployment, instability and unfulfilled potential.
- c. Many of these Multnomah County students become discouraged from studying or drop out of high school because they see no value in pursuing higher education due to their immigration status.
- d. This year Portland-based Graham Street Productions and El Grupo Juvenil, in association with Film Action Oregon, produced "Papers," the stories of undocumented youth in an effort to raise awareness about the challenges they face as they turn 18 without legal status.
- e. Undocumented students face overwhelming obstacles in accessing higher education, such as ineligibility for federal financial aid and having to pay out-of-state tuition in some states in order to attend state universities despite their long-term residency within our country.
- f. Access to higher education will help these students to break the bonds of poverty, raise their level of esteem and make full contributions to our country's civic, political and economic well-being.
- g. The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minor - DREAM Act would provide immigration benefits to those between the ages of 12 and 35, who arrived in the US as children, before the age of 16 and who have been continuously residing in the US for at least five years prior to enactment. Immigrants meeting the criteria will have the opportunity to "earn" permanent residency by attending college and earning at least a two-year degree or serving in the US military for two years.

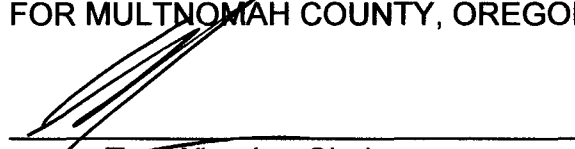
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. In solidarity with our colleagues at the City of Portland, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners urges the United States Congress and the President to Support the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minor (DREAM) Act.
2. The Board of Commissioners also urges Oregon Legislators to support the DREAM Act, and to use the full force of their influence and leadership to encourage the United States Congress and the President to pass the DREAM Act.

ADOPTED this 29th day of October 2009.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Deborah Kafoury, Commissioner, District 1
Jeff Cogen, Commissioner, District 2
Judy Shiprack, Commissioner, District 3
Diane McKeel, Commissioner, District 4
Ted Wheeler, County Chair