

Support Access to Higher Education for All Young People!

Protect the Maryland Dream Act

As a country, we believe that all children have a right to an education. Talented and hardworking young people should be granted every opportunity to go on to college and contribute back to their communities.

The Maryland Dream Act, which passed the General Assembly in 2011, allows Maryland's eligible students, regardless of their immigration status, to pay in-state tuition rates. The difference between in-state and out-of-state rates can be the difference between obtaining a college degree and not. This much celebrated law, however, is at risk of being voted down by referendum during the November elections.

It is critical for the future of immigrant young people across the country that the MD Dream Act is protected!

Maryland is home to close to 48,590 Korean Americans and 318,853 Asian Americans. Our voice can be the deciding factor in this vote in November.

For over a decade, the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC) has worked to elevate the Korean American and Asian American community's voice on immigrant student access to education issues. This summer, the struggle continues in Maryland.

Will you join us in mobilizing our community in Maryland to support the Maryland DREAM Act law by striking down the referendum for young people?



JOIN US in educating & mobilizing the Korean American and Asian American community to show support for Maryland's youth.

Let's send a clear message to the nation that we are a country that values education and young people!

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For information about NAKASEC please visit
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The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) was founded in 1994 by local community centers to project a national progressive voice and promote the full participation of Korean Americans as a part of a greater goal of building a national movement for social change. NAKASEC is based Washington, D.C. & Los Angeles. NAKASEC has affiliates in Chicago (Korean American Resource & Cultural Center) and Los Angeles (Korean Resource Center). www.nakasec.org | www.facebook.com/nakasec | www.twitter.com/nakasec

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MARYLAND DREAM ACT

1. What is the Maryland Dream Act?

The Maryland Dream Act provides in-state tuition for all students who have been residing in Maryland for at least three years while attending high school and who meets all other requirements. This law enables immigrant students to afford a college education, fulfill their dreams, and contribute to their community. For many, Maryland is their home. These are talented young people are embedded in our community foundation.

2. Does this law only help undocumented students?

No. It also benefits those who are awaiting some form of immigration relief, such as asylum, TPS, etc. These usually are long processes. In addition, it benefits a small group of military families and veterans.

3. Is Maryland the only State offering this benefit?

No. Maryland is the twelfth state to pass an in-state tuition law, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Rhode Island, and Washington. Other states may follow later. Compared to other State Dream Acts, Maryland's Dream Act is the most rigorous.

4. Why give them a break when they don't pay taxes?

Undocumented people pay taxes; filing their taxes through ITIN to IRS. In 2010, they paid \$275.2 million in state and local taxes (Unauthorized Immigrants Pay Taxes, Too.; Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy). To be eligible for the in-state tuition rate, students will have to prove that they or their parents/guardians have paid and are paying taxes. Additionally, undocumented students are not eligible to receive any federal or state scholarships or financial assistance.

5. Why is it urgent for me to get involved?

Currently, the Maryland Dream Act is in a statewide referendum. You will be able to show your support for Maryland's youth and send a clear message to the nation that we are a State that values immigrants contributions by supporting the Maryland Dream Act in the elections November 6, 2012 by striking down the referendum or, if you are not a voting resident, by helping to mobilizing the Maryland community to strike down the referendum.

The whole nation will have their eyes set on Maryland. This is our opportunity as a State to set the nation on the right path concerning immigration, secure the vitality of other States Dream Acts, and allow the dreams of promising Korean American, Asian American, and immigrant students to become an achievable reality.

* Frequently asked questions adapted from CASA de Maryland. See <http://educatingmarylandkids.org> for more information.

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