

Support the Maryland Dream Act!

TAKE ACTION!

The Maryland Dream Act is **Question 4** on the ballot and is titled **Public Institutions of Higher Education—Tuition Rates**. You will be able to show your support for Maryland's youth and send a clear message by **voting FOR on Question 4** on **November 6, 2012**.

WHAT IS THE MARYLAND DREAM ACT?

The Maryland Dream Act provides in-state tuition for all students who have been living in Maryland for at least **three** years while attending high school and who meet all other requirements. This law **enables immigrant students to afford a college education**, fulfill their dreams and contribute to our community.

WHAT DOES THE MARYLAND DREAM ACT MEAN FOR CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES?

Remember, children born outside of the United States came with their families and had no control about the choices their parents made.

Currently, only **5-10%** of undocumented high-school graduates go to college, and most of these youth are forced to work illegally in the cash economy as day laborers and factory workers. This law will create a strong incentive for undocumented students to **remain in school**.

Maryland students attending college through the Maryland Dream Act (SB 167) will be more likely to **stay out of poverty, own a home and raise more highly-educated children**.

WHAT DOES THE DREAM ACT MEAN FOR THE STATE?

In-state tuition will benefit the state economically and fiscally because the

higher future earnings levels that result from advanced education mean increased purchasing power for those Maryland high school students newly able to attend college.

Students benefitting from the more affordable in-state tuition rate will be more likely to give back to their community and continue to **keep Maryland competitive and financially stable**.

BACKGROUND ON THE MARYLAND DREAM ACT

To qualify for in-state tuition, the student:

- Must have attended at least three years of high school in Maryland
- Must have graduated or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Maryland
- Must have filed or their parents or legal guardian must have filed Maryland state income taxes for every year of high school and college
- Must have registered for the draft

Maryland is the twelfth state to pass an in-state tuition law. The other states are California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Rhode Island and Washington.

This is not a handout. Undocumented people pay taxes. According to Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, undocumented immigrants paid **\$275.2 million** in state and local taxes in 2010. To be eligible for the in-state tuition rate, students will have to prove that they or their parents/guardians have filed their Maryland income taxes.

Document prepared by Jessica Pingrey September 2012

